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Moscow welcomes Western proposal

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union on Tuesday welcomed a new Western proposal on troop reductions in Europe as a sign of political dialogue but said it would not significantly reduce the level of East-West military confrontation. Valeriy Mikhalov, chief Soviet negotiator at the Vienna talks on cutting conventional forces in Central Europe, said the Western proposal tabled on Dec. 5, was in the spirit of President Reagan's summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev last month in Geneva. "We are now carefully considering our response to the Western side to see to what extent it can contribute to progress at Vienna," Mr. Mikhalov told a news conference. But he criticised the proposal for not going as far as a Warsaw Pact offer, made last February, to cut Soviet and U.S. troops by an initial 20,000 and 13,000 troops respectively and to include both sides' weapons in the reductions.

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Quiles: SDI plan is not credible

PARIS (AP) — Defence Minister Paul Quiles, just returned from an official visit to the United States, said in an interview published on Tuesday that the American strategic defence initiative (SDI) is not credible and could upset present strategic concepts. "I remain, even after my trip to the United States, dubious about the probability of the realisation of such a system," the defence minister said in an interview with Le Monde, referring to U.S. research into a defensive system in space. "My doubts are re-enforced when I see that certain top American thinkers themselves are warning their political leaders against research towards an objective reposing on excessive confidence in the unlimited possibilities of science," Mr. Quiles said. He said there are enormous problems in developing such a system, not the least of which is developing laser equipment small enough to be launched into space and powering it.

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Khaddam, Wu hold talks

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam conferred on Tuesday with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian on bilateral relations, the Syrian Arab News Agency reported. The Chinese minister arrived on a three-day official visit to Damascus on Monday and said Peking was working on strengthening ties with the Syrian government. He has already met with his Syrian counterpart Farouk Al Shara'a.

Israeli official charged in land fraud case

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli official on Monday became the second person to be charged in connection with a scheme to defraud would-be land buyers in the occupied West Bank. Avi Tsur, now Israel's airport authority spokesman, was accused in court of issuing false documents and taking bribes of more than \$50,000 while an aide in the agriculture ministry.

Waite to return to Beirut on Friday

LONDON (AP) — Anglican envoy Terry Waite will return to Beirut on Friday to resume negotiations for the release of Americans held captive in Lebanon, the Church of England said on Tuesday. He planned "to resume his discussions with the groups holding the four American hostages," said spokeswoman Eve Keatley, adding: "While he is in Beirut, Mr. Waite will also try to contact those that are holding other hostages." On Monday, Mrs. Keatley had said Mr. Waite had left Britain on a secret mission Sunday and was to return Tuesday. She had said that trip did not take him to the Middle East, but declined to disclose further information.

Gandhi faces setback in Assam

GAUHATI, India (R) — Early returns on Tuesday from Assam state elections pointed to defeat for Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) government at the hands of the fledgling Assam Peoples Front (APF). Election officials said with counting in progress in 34 of the northeastern state's 125 seats the APF was leading in 17 and Congress (I) in nine with independents and small parties ahead in the rest.

EC ministers agree on reform texts

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) foreign ministers on Tuesday approved the texts of amendments to the founding Treaty of Rome. "We have accomplished our mission," said Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Pösch after a second day of talks aimed at salvaging an understanding reached at the EC Luxembourg summit two weeks ago by the 10 member states and future members Spain and Portugal. The agreement is meant to streamline the operations of the group, mainly by restricting the veto powers of member governments.

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Syria threatens 'painful blows' to Israel if it attacks new missiles

Damascus appears to be rejecting U.S. call

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria warned on Tuesday that it will deal "painful blows" to Israel if it attacks anti-aircraft missile batteries deployed along the Syrian border with Lebanon.

The Syrian warning, which came through the state-controlled press, also indicated that Damascus has turned down a U.S. appeal to remove the high-altitude surface-to-air (SA) missiles that Israel says pose a threat to its "freedom" to conduct intelligence-gathering flights over Lebanon. The Damascus statement also raised tension to its highest pitch since the Syrians clashed with Israelis during the Jewish state's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Israeli leaders have sought to play down the issue and avert a crisis. Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Monday appeared to rule out a war at this stage. "Syria will not yield to the rules of American-Zionist blackmail however heavy the pressure may be," Syria's Tishrin daily declared.

where some 25,000 Syrians are based. However, Rabin played down the risk of an imminent clash. "I do not see any political reason which could justify a military initiative by Israel," he said on Monday.

Israeli leaders have stressed they did not want to aggravate tensions over the deployment on Syria's border with Lebanon, where Israeli planes routinely make patrols. The Al Baath newspaper of Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's ruling Socialist Baath Party earlier defended Syria's right to "deploy inside its territory whatever weapons necessary for its self-defence."

A U.S. official, who insisted on anonymity, said in Washington that President Ronald Reagan's administration has urged the removal of fixed and mobile missiles from Syria's border with Lebanon in a bid to ease Middle East tensions. The Israeli army claimed three

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Iraqi president ends Moscow talks after meeting Gorbachev

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, on his first visit to the Soviet Union since 1978, wrapped up discussions with Kremlin leaders on Tuesday, and the official news agency TASS said the talks centred on foreign affairs and the Iran-Iraq war.

There was no mention of any agreement or protocol to be signed by the two sides following their meetings on Monday and Tuesday.

TASS said the talks "passed in a friendly atmosphere." President Hussein outlined his nation's involvement in the war "and reaffirmed the striving for settling it by peaceful means, through talks," TASS said. Tuesday's discussions included President Hussein and his delegation, and Soviet President Andrei A. Gromyko, Foreign

Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze and Defence Minister Sergei Sokolov.

"During the talks there was an exchange of views on matters of the international situation," TASS said, adding that both sides "stated a need for respect for the sovereign rights of states and for non-interference in their internal affairs."

President Hussein on Monday met with Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev, then held talks focusing on the Iran-Iraq conflict with Mr. Gromyko, Mr. Shevardnadze and Mr. Sokolov. No mention was made in any of the TASS reports on the question of arms supplies.

Soviet arms deliveries to Iraq are complicated by the fact that the Kremlin's chief Middle East ally, Syria, backs Iran in the Gulf

war. The Soviets temporarily suspended arms deliveries to Iraq after the Gulf war broke out in September 1980 but Western intelligence sources have said the deliveries resumed and that last spring the Soviets agreed to increase shipments.

Diplomats said President Hussein was likely to press the Kremlin to act to halt arms shipments to Iran from Syria.

TASS said President Hussein had a brief meeting with Mr. Gorbachev after a longer session with Mr. Gromyko. It gave no details but said the atmosphere was

(Continued on page 2)

S. Africa, Zimbabwe to discuss ANC attacks

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South African and Zimbabwe army commanders in the border area are to hold urgent talks following the killing of six whites in a guerrilla land mine explosion, the military announced on Tuesday.

"This means that a channel between the South African defence force commanding officer in the northern Transvaal and his equivalent on the Zimbabwe side is being created," a spokesman at the South African defence force headquarters in the capital, Pretoria, told the Associated Press.

The spokesman, who declined to be identified, said the talks will take place shortly, but refused to specify where or when. Johannesburg's Star newspaper reported that top-level military and intelligence officers from the two countries would meet Tuesday.

Earlier, in continued anti-apartheid unrest in South African cities, police reported a mine with a timing device exploded at a bus depot in Durban.

On Monday, Foreign Minister R.F. Botha sent a note to the Zimbabwe government complaining that African National Congress (ANC) guerrillas operating from Zimbabwe laid a series of land mines in the border area which have killed a total of seven people and injured 12 in the past three weeks and Defence Minister Gen. Magnus Malan warned that South Africa may send troops into Zimbabwe in pursuit of black guerrillas.

U.S. questioning of Israeli officials to end this week

TEL AVIV (AP) — U.S. investigating team is likely to complete its questioning of Israeli officials and diplomats last Thursday at an undisclosed location.

The team was sent to question two Israeli diplomats recalled from the United States who reportedly were in contact with Poland, Iran and Yugoslavia.

The investigators are also interviewing Rafael Eitan, the reported head of the defence ministry unit that ran the covert operation through Israel's embassy and consulates in the United States.

The spy case has strained U.S.-Israeli relations, even though Israel apologised for the affair. U.S. Defence Department officials said the United States has curtailed its intelligence cooperation with Israel since Poland's arrest.

The professionals know: in espionage it is jungle out there, page 4

India and Pakistan not to attack nuclear plants

NEW DELHI (AP) — Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq announced on Tuesday that India and Pakistan had agreed not to attack each other's nuclear facilities in a major breakthrough in bilateral relations.

Gen. Zia, addressing a joint news conference with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi before leaving the Indian capital, told reporters that both countries, rivals in three wars, had agreed not to launch attacks on each other's nuclear installations.

"We have decided on a number of steps to be taken to start normalising relations," Gen. Zia said at the end of his six-hour trip, his

Moellermann voices support for King's Mideast peace initiative

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — West German Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Jurgen Moellermann on Tuesday voiced his country's support for His Majesty King Hussein's peace initiative and said the acceptance in principle of a negotiated settlement to the Middle East peace problem is more important than whether negotiations are carried out directly or indirectly.

Describing the King's proposal for a negotiated peace in the region as "practical and a reasonable way of handling the situation," Mr. Moellermann added that "common understanding and a readiness for involvement in a negotiated settlement is more important than whether negotiations are carried out directly or through an international framework."

However, he said, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Soviet Union should be involved in any negotiation for peace in the Mideast.

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His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan receive West German Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Jurgen Moellermann (left in photo above) on Tuesday (Petra photo)



Prince Hassan: Religions have a major role in building peace

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has said that there is a need for a new consensus based on common values and beliefs originating from various religions to bring the cause of peace in the world and called for a dialogue among the world's major religions to contribute to the process of establishing peace.

The Crown Prince, in an address to the closing session on Monday of a meeting in Vienna of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues (ICHI) which he co-chairs with Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, presented a brief outline of how Islam as a religion could help in the process of peace building.

Pointing out that the word "Islam" itself means "peace and submission," the Crown Prince said the "Islamic concept of divine law includes all law governing and regulating the universe in which peace and order are deemed essential for material, moral and spiritual progress."

The Crown Prince cited a number of verses in the Holy Koran which emphasise the need to maintain peace and equality in the world and said: "Likewise many quotations could be provided from the holy books of other major religions to prove that it is not the message of God which varies on the subject of peace but the doings of men and the interpretations they may give to holy words."

"Between Muslims, Christians and Jews, there are bonds of faith strengthened by common heritage," the Prince said. Despite such bonds, he said, the "history of the last 1,000 years and more is full of conflict and fighting between Muslims, Christians and Jews."

"It is incumbent upon us to analyse the underlying cause of conflict, and through common will, try to eliminate them," the Crown Prince told the gathering. "To ensure a safe and secure world for our children and to safeguard millions of our fellow (Continued on page 2)

Israelis prevent meeting at Al Najah University

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli occupation authorities on Tuesday closed a Palestinian university in the West Bank city of Nablus to prevent a symposium on resistance against Israel, military officials said.

Israeli troops set up roadblocks near Al Najah University to turn back the school's 3,500 students during the day-long closure. Officials claimed the move was taken after the occupation authorities repeatedly "warned" the university against holding meetings like the one planned for Tuesday.

Palestinian sources told Reuter Israeli troops entered the campus and confiscated pamphlets. In Ramallah, a spokesman for Birzeit University said supporters of Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement have won a student election at the leading Palestinian university in the West Bank.

The poll to choose a student council was held on Monday at Birzeit University, the best known of several institutions of higher learning in the area and a main focal point of Palestinian nationalist activity. It has been closed several times by the Israeli occupation authorities.

The pro-Arafat list won 38 per cent of the 2,250 votes cast compared to 35 per cent for an alliance sympathetic to groups opposed to Mr. Arafat and 27 per cent for a Muslim fundamentalist list, the spokeswoman said.

U.N. appeals for freeze in nuclear weapons by U.S. and Soviet Union

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. General Assembly has approved a resolution urging Moscow and Washington to proclaim a nuclear arms freeze as a first step towards comprehensive disarmament.

The vote on Monday was 131 to 10 with eight abstentions. The U.S. opposed the move, which was supported by the Soviet Union. By 126-12 with 10 abstentions, the world body also called on all states with nuclear weapons to agree to a total halt of further production of such armaments and a complete cutoff of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes. This also received Soviet support and was opposed by the U.S.

A resolution by which the General Assembly asked the Geneva conference on disarmament to begin talks on a neutron weapon ban also was approved by 70 to 11, with 65 abstentions. The U.S. was among the opponents, while the Soviet Union supported the resolution. Britain, France and the U.S. cast the only objections to a resolution calling on the disarmament conference to establish a special body to consider "appropriate and practical measures" to prevent nuclear war.

This was approved by 136-3 with 14 abstentions. "A resolution dealing with the climatic effects of nuclear war, including what has been called a 'nuclear winter' during which the resultant debris would obscure the sun for months or even years, was adopted over the sole objection of the United States. A total of 141 members voted for the resolution and there were 10 abstentions.

The measure directs the secretary general and a group of experts to study the question. The resolutions were among a large number related to the disarmament question, to which the assembly's main political committee devoted most of its time at this 40th session. General Assembly resolutions are recommendations that are expected to make little impact on the principal parties negotiating disarmament.

General Assembly issues new call to isolate Israel

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The General Assembly on Monday reiterated previous calls for all U.N. members to cease all dealings with Israel "in order totally to isolate it in all fields."

The resolution, approved by 86 votes to 23, with 37 abstentions, also reiterated past declarations by the assembly that Israel's record, policies and actions "confirm that it is not a peace-loving member state."

It called on all states to refrain from supplying Israel with, or acquiring from it, any weapons or military equipment; to suspend economic, financial and technological assistance; and to sever diplomatic, trade and cultural relations with Israel.

The resolution was one of three adopted by the assembly on the situation in the Middle East but dealing exclusively with the Arab-Israeli conflict. By a vote of 98 to 19 with 31 abstentions, it reaffirmed past calls for an international Middle East peace conference that would include participation by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

U.S.-Israel pact criticised

The text criticised November 1981 strategic cooperation agreements between the United States and Israel, as well as economic aid and trade accords between the two countries, which it said encouraged Israel to "pursue its aggressive and expansionist policies and practices." In a separate vote, this paragraph was approved by 64 to 33 with 41 abstentions.

By a vote of 137 to two, with 10 abstentions, the assembly also determined that Israel's decision to impose its laws and jurisdiction in Jerusalem was "illegal and therefore null and void and has no validity whatsoever."

It deplored the transfer by some states of their diplomatic missions to Jerusalem in violation of a 1980 Security Council resolution. The negative votes were cast by Israel and Costa Rica, which has an embassy in Jerusalem.

Human rights abuse assailed

Earlier, the assembly adopted resolutions condemning Israeli actions affecting the human rights of the population of the occupied territories and supporting the work of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

The United States voted against two of the Middle East resolutions and abstained on the third, dealing with Jerusalem.

Iraqi planes hit another ship near Iranian coast

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Tuesday its jet fighters raided an unidentified ship near the Iranian coast in pursuit of its avowed to block oil exports of its Gulf war foe until Tehran opted for peace.

A military spokesman announced over the state radio that the Iraqi jet fighters struck the "large maritime target" — the byword for tankers.

The warplanes, "inflicted meticulous and effective hits on their target and returned unharmed to base," the spokesman said.

The spokesman said the ship was off the Iranian coast when raided, without giving a specific location.

Iraq has been attacking commercial vessels plying Iranian ports in the north eastern part of the Gulf waters since February 1984, with the aim of pressuring Tehran to accept a negotiated settlement to the war which is now in its sixth year.

Scores of vessels were crippled in these raids, mainly within the 50-mile radius "exclusion zone"

around Iran's vital Kharg Island oil terminal. In mid-August, Iraq escalated the declared blockade with almost daily air raids on the Kharg terminal itself.

Not all Iraqi claimed raids have been confirmed independently however. Marine salvage executives in Bahrain also did not have immediate confirmation of a ship in distress following the announcement by the Iraqi spokesman.

Iraqi and Iranian aircraft have hit around 160 merchant vessels in the Gulf "tanker war" extension of their five-year old ground conflict.

Meanwhile the official Iranian News Agency (IRNA) claimed that Iranian warplanes attacked an Iraqi troop concentration at Fakhri in southern Iraq Tuesday "inflicting heavy losses and dam-

age."

Fakhri is on the border just north of the extensive Howzeh Marshes opposite which Iran has reportedly massed up to half a million troops in preparation for an imminent offensive.

Both warring sides have stepped up air strikes in the region with Iraq reporting dozens of daily sorties in the past week. The Iranian attack on Fakhri is the fourth, that Iran announced its warplanes have carried out since Sunday.

Iraq, however, reported that two Iranian planes attempted to penetrate the Iraqi border in the southern Misan sector but were chased away by ground resistance.

The Iraqi News Agency quoted a military spokesman as adding that Iraq suffered no material damage from the two planes.

Meanwhile Iranian Prime Minister Hussein Musavi predicted victory in the protracted 5-year-old war, IRNA reported.

An Iranian commander, quoted by a Tehran newspaper on Saturday, said Iran had more troops

on the central and southern fronts than at any time in the Gulf war.

Diplomats in Tehran say it is almost impossible to gauge the number of Iranian fighters at the front. Estimates range from 500,000 to two million.

Kamal Kharrazi, head of Iran's War Information Headquarters, in an interview with IRNA, called on Iraqi troops to lay down their arms and run to Iranian lines.

Gulf shipping sources said Iraqi attacks on shipping had helped to cause serious loading delays of around 10 days at Iran's Sirri Island oil export terminal in the southern Gulf.

Two tankers in Iran's fleet shuttling oil south from its main Kharg Island terminal to Sirri, outside the presumed range of Iraqi planes, have been crippled by missiles since Dec. 7. Two others are out of action after a collision.

Iraq, intent on denying Iran oil revenue to finance its war effort, has reported 55 raids on Kharg since mid-August.

Egypt, Israel to hold more talks on Taba

TEL AVIV (AP) — In an effort to defuse a potential cabinet crisis, Prime Minister Shimon Peres decided to dispatch top officials to Cairo to take another stab at resolving several major disputes between Israel and Egypt, Israel Radio reported Tuesday.

Agreement to send the negotiating team to Egypt was reached with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the radio said. Shamir, head of the Likud Bloc, has objected to Peres' proposals for resolving the main sticking point in ties with Egypt — the border dispute over the Red Sea beach of Taba.

Peres, head of the Labour Party, has proposed that the rival claims to Taba be settled by arbitration. Egypt too favours such a step, but Shamir is only willing to accept non-binding conciliation.

Following negotiations in Israel and Egypt during the past two weeks, Peres sought to bring the Taba issue for resolution by the Defence Cabinet. But he put off the crucial vote after failing to win Shamir's approval for his proposal.

Likud and Labour, which have an equal number of seats in the 10-member Defence Cabinet, engaged in stalling matches over the Taba issue this week, with hardliners on both sides calling for the government to be dismantled.

The radio report said the Israeli negotiators would seek further clarifications on Taba and other outstanding matters, such as the virtual absence of trade and tourism ties, and then present working papers to the cabinet. It did not say when the delegation would leave for the Egyptian capital.

In a speech Saturday, Peres stated his political reputation on getting the proposal through the cabinet, saying he thought it fair and acceptable.

The proposal calls for an improvement of trade, cultural, tourist and diplomatic relations between the two countries from the beginning of the arbitration process, Israel Radio reported.

The radio also reported that the negotiators, who worked out the proposals during six days of talks in Cairo and a Tel Aviv suburb, proposed that the loser in the arbitration dispute would be guaranteed right of access to Taba and a share in administration.

Ozal to visit Iran on Jan. 3

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkish Premier Turgut Ozal will travel to Iran, Turkey's second major trading partner and eastern neighbour, for a three-day official visit on Jan. 3, Foreign Ministry sources said Tuesday.

Mr. Ozal and Premier Hussein Musavi of Iran will mainly discuss bilateral economic issues and will estimate the amount of crude oil Turkey plans to buy from Iran in 1986, the Economic News Agency ANKA reported.

French envoy returns to Beirut

PARIS (R) — France Tuesday sent Dr. Razah Raad on his second humanitarian mission to Lebanon as efforts to obtain the release of four French hostages continued, diplomatic sources said.

Dr. Raad declined to make a statement before his departure.

On his earlier mission last month, Dr. Raad was unable to see diplomats Marcel Carton and Marcel Fontaine, journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann and researcher Michel Seurat, but he said indirect contacts with the kidnappers confirmed the Frenchmen were all in good health.

Ten days ago Shi'ite militia leader Nabih Berri said at a news con-

ference in Beirut that he was redoubling his efforts for the release of the French hostages.

The Pro-Iranian "Islamic Jihad" (holy war) which has claimed responsibility for the abductions is not known to have organisational links with Mr. Berri's Amal Movement, but both spring from Lebanon's Shi'ite community.

Diplomatic sources said Dr. Raad, accompanied again by diplomat Pierre Blouin, was carrying medical supplies with him.

The sources said the current mission had "great latitude for action."

Meanwhile the British embassy

in Beirut said Tuesday it was hopeful that British cameraman Christopher Wenner, missing for 19 days, had not been kidnapped and would reappear later this week.

"We have spoken to friends of his who say he is all right and is expected back in Beirut in three or four days," an embassy spokesman said.

Wenner, a 30-year old London-based freelance, is married with a child. He was last seen in Beirut on Nov. 29 as he left for the eastern Bekaa Valley town of Baalbek to make a film on hashish-growing, television soundman Sayeed Ashkar said.

Moellemann voices support for King's initiative

(Continued from page 1)

In reply to a question whether West Germany was contemplating any new initiative for peace in the region he said: "No, I think there are some reasonable suggestions and there is no need for new plans. There is need to support reasonable initiatives."

The West German official, speaking at a press conference after being received by the King and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, said West Germany believes that the European Community (EC) states, which represent 300 million people, should adopt a common stand and work towards creating understanding among the parties involved in the Mideast conflict.

"What we want to do is to contribute to develop a national European view and common activity" for peace in the area, he said.

Mr. Moellemann, who arrived here from Saudi Arabia, said his talks with the King covered international issues, the Middle East conflict, the Iran-Iraq war, the rapprochement between Jordan and Syria, Jordanian-Palestinian relations and bilateral relations in political issues.

According to Mr. Moellemann, the Jordan-Syria rapprochement will not influence Jordanian-Palestinian relations and "we hope so because we need no new splits to come into the Arab family. There are really enough splits and we should help support Arab unity."

Asked whether West Germany plans to have any official relationship with the PLO, Mr. Moellemann said: "The relationship between West Germany and the PLO would change if the organisation accepted UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and if it would denounce terror precisely and without any contradictions."

He said West Germany bases its Middle East policy on three principles: Denunciation of violence, direct talks to solve the Mideast problem and PLO-Israel mutual acceptance. The PLO should accept Israel's right to exist while Israel should accept the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, he said.

Mr. Moellemann said he met with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat prior to being appointed in the federal government and that he had advised Mr. Arafat to "present his position without any contradiction."

"But, it seems that the problem of the chairman's contradiction is

also seen here in Jordan and this question would be discussed when Mr. Arafat arrives in Jordan" in the coming days, he said.

Mr. Moellemann, who said that there are certain moves within the Arab political scene towards peace, said: "Israel and the U.S. should also move and present more constructive proposals for the Mideast peace process."

Mr. Moellemann also held talks with Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri on Tuesday, leaves for home on Wednesday. His talks here were attended by the West German ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Herwig Bartels.

Iraqi leader ends Moscow talks

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frank, businesslike and friendly.

In its report on the talks with Mr. Gromyko, TASS said the two leaders discussed the Gulf conflict and the Middle East "from the standpoint of the need to remove the causes" behind them.

In a banquet speech Mr. Gromyko set out the Soviet Union's neutrality in the Gulf conflict, which he described as unnecessary and mindless, TASS reported.

Mr. Gromyko, in his speech, said, "the Soviet Union's position (on the war) has been expounded more than once."

"From the very start of the war we have believed and continue to believe now that it is not needed and senseless," he said. "It benefits only those who are interested in weakening Iraq and Iran."

Mr. Gromyko then criticised Iraq, saying, "in our view, they are acting unreasonably (those) who are calling... for continuing the war until the triumphant end" and view it as a means of settling accounts with the enemy and forcing their political will on it."

There was no immediate indication whether the Soviets were proposing any specific efforts at mediating the war.

According to TASS, at the banquet hosted by Mr. Gromyko, President Hussein "reiterated Iraq's striving for the settlement of the conflict by peaceful means, on the basis of the principles of respect for the sovereignty, dignity and lawful rights of both sides."

TASS also said President Hussein stated that Iraq wanted good-neighbourly relations with Iran.

TASS said President Hussein and President Gromyko blamed Israel and the United States for the continuing conflict in the region and called for an international conference to bring about a solution to the Palestinian question.

They also stressed "the urgent need to overcome as soon as possible differences in the Palestine resistance movement and to restore the unity of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)."

Moscow has continued to support Yasser Arafat's leadership of the PLO against Syrian-backed factions opposed to him.

'Religions have a major role in building peace'

(Continued from page 1)

human beings, it is essential that all men of good will, whatever their religion or country, struggle against divisive and destructive forces," he said.

"The message I would like to leave with this distinguished gathering is that it is incumbent upon all of us to use our faith in the process of peace-building," the Prince said. "It will also undoubtedly show us that we have not only common problems but also

common solutions. Their pursuit should be our common goal if we are to build a just and durable peace on earth."

(Full text of the Crown Prince's speech will be published in tomorrow's issue of the Jordan Times).

Prince Hassan returned to Amman on Tuesday after his visit to Austria which lasted three days. Prince Hassan met with senior government officials in Vienna and held talks on Jordanian-

Austrian relations as well as Middle East developments and the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

During the visit, Prince Hassan chaired the ICIH to discuss world issues like drought, desertification, natural disasters and illiteracy.

Among the dignitaries Prince Hassan met was President Rudolf Kirchschlaeger, former United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky.

Dutch company director charged with shipping military equipment to Iran

ALMELO, Netherlands (AP) — A prosecutor here is seeking a four-month prison term for the director of a Dutch company which allegedly exported military equipment to Iran in violation of Dutch law.

The prosecutor's office in this eastern Dutch city is also seeking imposition of a 200,000-guilder (\$70,734) fine against the company, Hollandse Signaalapparaten (HSA), according to prosecutor's spokeswoman Winnie Sorgdrager.

Both HSA and one of its directors were charged earlier this month with failing to apply for the government export licence mandatory for the sale of so-called "strategic goods."

They were also charged with

falsifying documentation on the equipment, identified at Monday's court hearing as spare parts for gunnery control systems used by the Iranian Navy.

The director on trial, who was only identified as J.B., in line with Dutch judicial practice, did not deny the charges.

It is customary in the Dutch judicial system that the prosecutor seeks a sentence before final adjudication of a case. A verdict is expected on Dec. 23.

On Monday, Prosecutor Bart Van Der Lugt claimed that in the 1982-1984 period, HSA sent at least 20 shipments of spare parts, worth 3.5 million guilders (\$1.34 million), to Iran, according to Ms. Sorgdrager.

Under Dutch law, a gov-

ernment export licence for strategic goods is not issued if they are destined for a country at war.

Mr. Van Der Lugt told the court that in all the shipments, company documents listed Nigeria as the final destination for the components, according to Ms. Sorgdrager.

Last year, British customs intercepted one of the shipments, which had been shipped via a London-based trading house, Ms. Sorgdrager said.

Based in Hengelo, 20 kilometres east of here, HSA is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Philips Electronics Multinational, and specialises in the production of Defence-related electronic systems.

Juan Carlos supports GCC efforts for peace

MUSCAT (Agencies) — King Juan Carlos of Spain on Tuesday supported efforts of the six Arab states in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to end the Iran-Iraq war.

Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Youssef Ibn Alawi, said the king endorsed the GCC mediation bid in talks with the ruler, Sultan Qaboos Ibn Sa'id.

Oman is one of the GCC states along with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

The GCC countries, which have backed Iraq in the five-year-old conflict, last month agreed to seek better ties with Iran and try to persuade Tehran to accept a peaceful settlement.

Mr. Ibn Alawi said Sultan Qaboos had accepted an invitation from King Juan Carlos to visit Spain at a later date, the official Oman News Agency reported.

He said Oman — with more than 1,800 kilometres of coastline along the Indian Ocean — was seeking Spain's help to develop fishing industries. Spain has one of the biggest fishing fleets in Europe.

Sultan Qaboos and King Carlos were scheduled to visit Sohar, a coastal province 128 kilometres north of Muscat, on Tuesday.

Foreign ministers of the two countries will meanwhile continue the talks started by the sultan and the king on means of boosting bilateral relations, according to officials.

The talks of Francisco Fernandez Ordonez and Mr. Ibn Alawi were expected to cover the latest developments in the Gulf region and the Middle East, they added.

Police fire injures 2 during Sudan protests

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Police gunfire wounded two people in a demonstration protesting a visit to a south western town by an Islamic fundamentalist delegation, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported Tuesday.

In a dispatch from Al Mughlad, 750 kilometres south west of Kha-

rtoum, SUNA did not say whether there was violence among the demonstrators before police opened fire.

The protest was over a visit to Al Mughlad by a delegation from the Islamic National Front, headed by Dr. Hassan Abdallah Al Turabi, a leader of the fun-

damentalist Muslim Brotherhood.

SUNA said demonstrators shouted slogans against the Islamic Front and carried placards depicting amputated hands.

Ousted President Jaafar Numeiri declared the Islamic legal code Sharia as Sudan's law in September 1983.

Ben Bella urges democracy in Algeria

LONDON (R) — Ahmad Ben Bella, Algeria's first post-independence president, has launched a campaign for multi-party democracy in his country with a call for peaceful nationwide protest demonstrations.

Mr. Ben Bella, 69, and former political opponent Ait Ahmad Hocine told a news conference they had already received expressions of support from within Algeria.

"Algeria is living a drama. Men have gone underground. People

have been killed, people have been wounded," Mr. Ben Bella said.

Mr. Ben Bella led Algeria to independence in 1962 after a seven-year revolt against French colonial rule.

He was ousted in a bloodless coup in 1965 and kept under arrest for the next 14 years. President Chadli Benjedid lifted restrictions stopping him from travelling or making political statements in 1980.

He said Kabylia, homeland of

Algeria's once-influential Berbers, was in ferment as were other regions.

Hocine, sentenced to death by the Ben Bella government for trying to overthrow it then reprieved, stressed they wanted no violence.

The two men, who live in exile in Switzerland, said their aim was to bring about an awakening in Algerian society. They would decide on the form of their campaign — possibly an opposition front — after considering the response to their call.

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MAIN CHANNEL
17:00 — Koran
17:20 — Cartoons
17:45 — Children Programmes
18:00 — Agricultural Programmes
18:20 — Programmes Review
18:40 — News in Arabic
19:00 — Arabic Series
19:20 — Programmes Review
19:40 — "Wrestling"
20:00 — News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL
18:00 — French Programme
18:20 — News in French
18:40 — Le theatre de Bordeaux
19:00 — News in Hebrew
19:20 — News in Arabic
19:40 — The Company
20:00 — Documentary: Communism
20:20 — News in English
20:40 — Remington Steele

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07:00 — Light Music
07:30 — Newsdesk
08:00 — Morning Show
08:30 — News Summary
08:50 — Morning Show Contd.
09:10 — Pop Session
09:30 — News Summary
09:50 — News Summary
10:10 — Pop Session
10:30 — News Summary
10:50 — News Bulletin
11:10 — Instrumentals
11:30 — The Young Sound
11:50 — Concert Hour
12:10 — News Summary
12:30 — Instrumentals
12:50 — Old Favorites
13:10 — Jordan Weekly
13:30 — Pop Session
13:50 — News Summary
14:10 — Over a Cup of Tea
14:30 — Arab Music
14:50 — News Desk
15:10 — Date with a Star
15:30 — Evening Show
15:50 — News Summary
16:10 — Evening Show Contd.
16:30 — News Summary
16:50 — Evening Show Continued
17:10 — News Headlines
17:30 — Close Down

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06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Waveguide 06:40 News Choice 06:45 Financial News 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:05 24 Hours News Summary 07:30 What's New 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Mediterranean 08:40 World News 08:45 24 Hours: News Summary 09:00 The Falconer's Tale 09:05 That's The World News 10:00 24 Hours: News Summary 10:05 24 Hours: News Summary 10:10 24 Hours: News Summary 10:15 24 Hours: News Summary 10:20 24 Hours: News Summary 10:25 24 Hours: News Summary 10:30 24 Hours: News Summary 10:35 24 Hours: News Summary 10:40 24 Hours: News Summary 10:45 24 Hours: News Summary 10:50 24 Hours: News Summary 10:55 24 Hours: News Summary 11:00 24 Hours: News Summary 11:05 24 Hours: News Summary 11:10 24 Hours: News Summary 11:15 24 Hours: News Summary 11:20 24 Hours: News Summary 11:25 24 Hours: News Summary 11:30 24 Hours: News Summary 11:35 24 Hours: News Summary 11:40 24 Hours: News Summary 11:45 24 Hours: News Summary 11:50 24 Hours: News Summary 11:55 24 Hours: News 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06:00 News 06:10 Newsline 06:30 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning News Summary 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30 Music USA 18:00 News 18:10 Newsline 18:30 Special English News & Features

NEWS IN BRIEF

Parliament called to session

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament has been called for a meeting on Dec. 19th. House Speaker Akef Al Fayed, who issued the call, did not specify the subjects to be discussed. The Upper House was called to convene on Wednesday Dec. 18th, under the chairmanship of its Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi. At the session, the 1986 national budget will be referred to the House's financial committee, a House spokesman said. The House will also refer a number of temporary draft laws to specialised committees.

Kayed chairs meeting on leasing land

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Interior Hassan Al Kayed Tuesday chaired a meeting of a special committee entrusted with discussing leasing state-owned land in southern Jordan Valley region to the public. The leasing of land for agricultural investment was decided on by a cabinet meeting and a special committee was set up to look into requests for developing these lands. The committee groups the directors of the Jordan Valley Authority and the Land and Survey Department as well as the governor of Karak.

Cloudy, rainy weather forecast

AMMAN (J.T.) — A depression centred over Algeria is expected to affect the Kingdom as of Wednesday with cloudy and rainy weather in most regions. Meteorology Department Director Ali Abanda said Tuesday. Dr. Abanda said the depression is expected to affect the country by mid-day. Dr. Abanda said the rains were late this winter due to a high pressure zone over the Mediterranean which prevented cold air masses from reaching the region.

Ministry issues stamps for police day

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Communications has issued a set of postage stamps showing the police in service of the public to mark Arab Police Day which falls on Wednesday Dec. 18. The set of stamps, which will be put into circulation at all post offices on Wednesday, are of 40, 60 and 125 fils denominations.

British ambassador visits Mu'ta

KARAK (Petra) — British Ambassador to Jordan John Coles called at Mu'ta University Tuesday and met with its President Ali Mahafza to whom he presented a gift of books for the university's library. Dr. Mahafza and the ambassador discussed cooperation between the university and British cultural and military institutions and the ambassador was briefed on the development of the university, its plans and programmes. Dr. Mahafza presented the ambassador with the university's insignia as a token gift.

Syria threatens 'painful blows' to Israel

(Continued from page 1)

clusters of fixed SA-2 missiles, which have a range of 40-56 kilometres, were installed near the border.

The Israelis said that mobile SA-6s and SA-8s pulled out of Lebanon were redeployed around them.

The missiles are considered obsolete by Western military experts.

But if they are fired at Israeli reconnaissance flights in Lebanon, Israel might retaliate against bases inside Syrian territory, prompting Damascus to deploy more sophisticated missiles.

The Syrians have also disclosed they have taken delivery of an unspecified number of new Soviet-built warships, believed to be missile-armed attack craft, to build up their sea power to match Israel's.

In Belgrade, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said on Tuesday Israel and Syria were handling the crisis "very carefully."

Questioned about the missiles by reporters aboard his plane en route from Budapest to Belgrade, Mr. Shultz said there was a "certain tension" because of the movement of the missiles.

He added: "I think the situation is being handled very carefully on all sides. So I hope that it doesn't erupt."

Mr. Shultz is in Belgrade on the last stop of an eight-day European tour.

In Tel Aviv, Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Tuesday that although Syria was "not interested in peace" with Israel, it continued to abide by its border agreements with the Jewish state.

President Assad "is not seeking peace with Israel, he is seeking what the Syrians call strategic parity," Peres told high school students in Lod.

"The minute they think they have strategic parity, they might have other thoughts too," Peres said.

But the prime minister added that "until then, Assad is maintaining the agreements between Syria and Israel, the written agreements and more or less the non-written ones."

Peres said Syria was "investing a fortune, they've doubled their army in the past decade, they've established a large air force."

The London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), in a 1983-1984 handbook, reports that Syria has a standing army of 222,000 and 457 combat aircraft. The handbook says Israel has a standing army of 172,000 with 550 combat aircraft.

A senior Israeli official told a briefing Tuesday that Israel sent Mr. Assad a message saying the downing of the Syrian MiG-23 fighters was dictated by "operational considerations" and was not meant to change the status quo between the two countries. Israel Radio reported. The radio did not say when the message was sent.

The official, who was not identified, also said the contacts with Syria via the United States would continue.

Municipality plans projects for a more beautiful city

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The capital's motto for 1986 will be "Amman the beautiful" as the municipality is planning to set up fountains, murals, nine public theatres and other ornamental establishments, according to Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh.

Mr. Rawabdeh, speaking during an open dialogue with the public said the municipality has planted 300,000 trees since the "Green Amman" project in 1984. He added 50 buildings have been already painted white as part of the municipality's drive to make Amman a clean and attractive city. The municipality is also working on achieving the third motto of 1985 which is "a blossoming Amman," the mayor continued.

Regarding plans for 1986, Mr. Rawabdeh said the municipality is in the course of setting up new modern buildings to house municipality departments in each of its nine areas. The buildings will also house a theatre, an auditorium for social events, a public library and another for children as well as a social service centre, he continued.

Speaking at the open dialogue, which was organised by the Jordanian Libraries Association, was former Minister of Transport Taher Hikmat who pointed out the significant developments Amman has witnessed during the past few decades.

Mr. Deifallah Hmoud, president of the friends of the police society, called for adopting traditional architecture in building mosques and churches. Addressing the audience, Mr. Hmoud also called for the maintenance and restoration of relics and archaeological sites in the city.



CROWN PRINCE RETURNS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who returned to Amman on Tuesday after a visit to Austria, is greeted upon arrival by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai (Petra photo)

Jordan, Egypt open trade exchange talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt Tuesday opened talks in Amman aimed at bolstering economic and trade relations between them. The talks are being conducted through a joint committee co-chaired by Under Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Mohammad Al Saqqaf and his Egyptian counterpart Yahya Al Jamal.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Industry and Trade said that the two sides discussed raising to \$250 million the value of annual trade exchange between the two countries to be equally divided between them. They also followed up the implementation of trade protocols signed by the two sides last year.

The committee also discussed the prospect of entrusting two private sector companies in Egypt to undertake trade exchange operations with Jordan and opening opportunities for the public and private sectors in both countries to exchange national products in excess of trade quota assigned for the public sectors. The joint committee also discussed exempting Egyptian and Jordanian trade centres in Cairo and Amman from income tax and permission for either country to organise a trade exhibition in the other to promote the sale of its products.

The meeting on the Jordanian side was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Central

Bank of Jordan, the Trade Centres Corporation, the Amman Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the director of the Jordanian trade centre in Cairo. On the Egyptian side, it was attended by the Egyptian delegation accompanying Mr. Jamal on his visit to Jordan.

The Egyptian side to the meeting arrived here Monday evening, and Mr. Jamal told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that the aim of the visit was to explore means of expanding the volume of trade between the two countries and signing a new trade protocol for 1986 in implementation of a general trade agreement.

The Egyptian delegation later called on Minister of Industry and Trade Rajal Muasher with whom they discussed means of expanding and increasing trade relations between the two countries.

Foreign Ministry takes steps to deal with expatriates' affairs

By Lama Nabli
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Foreign Ministry has sent out invitations to a number of departments connected with the affairs of Jordanian expatriates asking them to attend a meeting in Amman in the coming few days which will discuss the implementation of recommendations issued by the first Jordanian expatriates conference held in Amman in July.

The ministry's director of the expatriates department, Mohamad Khourma said that Jordanian embassies abroad will be provided with sufficient staff to speed up the issuance of passports and other documents and business for the expatriates on a regular basis.

Mr. Khourma said that the Foreign Ministry has requested Jordanian embassies abroad to supply it with the number of expatriates in their respective countries, the types of jobs they are doing and suggestions they would like to make to the Jordanian government for discussion in Amman.

He called on expatriates to form committees in their respective countries to coordinate their contacts and dealings with embassies. Expatriates' transfers to Jordan amounted to JD 2.6 billion between 1974 and 1984, he pointed out.

The establishment of the expatriates department at the Foreign Ministry was in response to directives issued by His Majesty King Hussein and recommendations by the expatriates conference in the summer which was attended by more than 700 people. The conference discussed several working papers dealing with political, economic, educational and sports affairs and other issues of concern to Jordanian expatriates.

Majali, Somali minister discuss education issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al Majali Tuesday held talks with visiting Somali Minister of Education Abdul Rahman Othman and his accompanying delegation.

They discussed means of promoting bilateral cooperation in education-related affairs and Jordan's assistance to Somalia which will help the country Arabise its educational system. Jordan is ready to help Somalia carry out its national Arabisation programme and it supports the country in trying to obtain help from the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) for this purpose. Mr. Majali said. ALECSO is due to hold a meeting in Tunis early next week

and the subject of Arabisation in Somalia is expected to be on the agenda.

The Somali minister spoke of his country's need for moral, material and political support to enable it to overcome the various problems it is facing.

The Somali minister, who arrived in Amman Monday for a visit expected to last several days, is expected to hold further meetings with Jordanian officials on issues of mutual concern.

Jordanian cadet wins award in British officer training course

LONDON (LPS) — A member of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Al Lababidi Jamal has won the overseas award after completing the 28-week officers cadet course at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, near London.

Cadet Corporal Jamal, aged 24, from Amman, was considered to be the best of 21 overseas cadets on the course, who included two other members of the Jordanian army: Imad Badran, aged 24, from Amman and Al Sate Marzuq, aged 21, from Zarqa.

Al Lababidi Jamal said he had

not deliberately set out to win the award. He had just done the course as best he could and worked hard and he added that the Sandhurst training would be useful on his return to Jordan.

The course includes tough training in mountainous country in Wales — living in the open day and night for a week with 18-hour days and little sleep, exercises on the Salisbury Plain training area in south-west England, and a 12-day trip to Cyprus for battle training in the hills there.



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Sea Land Maritime announces

MENLO PARK — Nov. 26, 1985 — The port of Aqaba in Jordan has been added to the growing Middle East network of Sea-Land Service, Inc., the company announced here today.

According to John Vanna, Sea-Land's Vice President in the Middle East, the new service is provided on United Arab Shipping Corporation (UASC) vessels that call directly every 16 days from the United States east coast ports of New York, Baltimore, Norfolk, VA., and Savannah, GA. and the Mediterranean port of Valencia, Spain.

The port of Aqaba offers a modern containership berth with two shoreside gantry cranes. Through its representative in Jordan, Aqaba Shipping Company, Sea-Land offers a complete service that includes both refrigerated and dry cargo handling, through bills of lading to all major Jordanian destinations, and export services to the U.S., the Arabian Gulf and the Indian subcontinent. The company can also arrange customs clearance via Amman or Aqaba.

In addition to its extensive Atlantic and Mediterranean services, Sea-Land now offers both TransPacific and TransAtlantic services to 11 Middle East countries: Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Sea-Land has a total of 19 Middle East sales offices serving 15 ports, and makes extensive use of surface transportation throughout the Middle East.

Sea-Land corporation is an international intermodal transportation and trade services company. Its principal subsidiary, Sea-Land Service, INC, is one of the largest U.S.-flag carriers of containerised goods, operating a fleet of 62 containerships that call at 76 ports and service 63 countries and territories around the globe.

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The pros know: In espionage, it's a jungle out there

By Philip Geyelin

WASHINGTON — Presidents and political leaders seem obliged to talk down to the people about the delicate, disagreeable and dangerous game of international espionage. Keep it simple is the rule: There are good guys, bad guys and much you should not trouble yourself about.

Old pros in the intelligence trade — and I am talking about real spies, not the high-technology types — talk differently. They talk cynically, up front. Knowing it's a jungle out there, they do not confuse espionage with crime in the streets.

The two kinds of talk we have been hearing about the recent rash of spy cases, and particularly the one involving Israel, are a perfect illustration of why, if you want a rounded view, it is a good idea to

stick with the professionals.

In his recent radio address on the subject, for example, President Reagan dwelt on the threat to the West from a growing swarm of KGB agents working in the United States and around the world for the Soviet Union and its satellites.

"There is no reason to sugarcoat reality," the president said, adding, "The Free World is today confronted with some of the most sophisticated, best orchestrated efforts of theft and espionage in modern history."

True enough. But when the president promises to "root out and prosecute the spies of any nation," and insists, "we will let the chips fall where they may," — and still cannot bear to mention the Israeli case — he is not just sugarcoating; he is barking public und-

standing.

The same may be said for the arguments we are getting from Israel's best friends in America: That the case of Jonathan Jay Pollard is the work of irresponsible, overzealous underlings. "We can straighten this out in no time," Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a New York Democrat, said the other day.

If so, why did it take the Israeli government a full week to clear its throat before issuing an apology "to the extent that" spying on the United States "did take place"? Why did even that non-apology have to be negotiated by the U.S. secretary of state?

You might have thought that when Mr. Pollard, a U.S. Navy intelligence analyst, allegedly offered to sell U.S. military secrets to Israel, the Israelis would have

warned their good American friends about a serious threat to U.S. security instead of apparently exploiting it for their own purposes. But that would not be in the nature of the espionage games even friendly nations play.

The United States and Israel cooperate on intelligence matters up to a point. The United States holds back things that would threaten relations with its Arab friends in the region. The beleaguered Israelis venture off from time to time without the slightest sense of obligation to counsel with Washington in advance.

Which brings us back to the professionals and the it's-a-jungle-out-there theory of the case. The old hands take it for granted that Israel conducts intelligence operations in the United

States. They assume as well that after assorted surprises — the 1956 Suez war, the Israeli bombings of Iraq and Tunisia, and the full scale of Israel's war in Lebanon — the United States has been doing its own intelligence checking on Israel.

And yet when they say so out loud — well, consider the reaction recently when a former director of Central Intelligence, Richard Helms, did just that. He said that "the only sin in espionage is getting caught."

Asked on a Sunday talk show whether America could conceivably be spying on its NATO allies, he said: "I hope so. Espionage is not played by the Marquis of Queensberry rules."

Well, you could have knocked ABC's Sam Donaldson over with

a classified document. If the only crime was being caught, why have espionage laws? By that standard, Mr. Donaldson pressed on, we might as well cheat on our income taxes — as long as we don't get caught.

Mr. Helms struggled in vain to explain the difference between taxes and espionage. He tried to explain that the subtleties and just plain law-breaking involved in intelligence and counterintelligence activities are not so much a matter of cops-and-robbers as of damage limitation. But the espionage struggle in the shadows, between friends as well as adversaries around the world, is not a subject that lends itself to Sunday talk shows or to presidential radio chats — Washington Post

Contribution to democracy

MONDAY'S debate in Parliament over the 1986 budget was a healthy sign that our democratisation process is continuing and prospering. People of all walks of life followed it with a great deal of attention and interest and we all were proud that such a free and democratic debate between the government and their representatives could take place in our country.

Ever since Parliament was restored early in 1984, and even before when the National Consultative Council (NCC) was substituting for the elected assembly, it has become a tradition for the government to present its budget to the people's representatives and to expect from them every contribution towards making the right decisions for the country.

These contributions usually varied from outright criticism to full endorsement of the government policies, but the executive branch never failed to take note of every word said and to do its utmost in replying positively and constructively to the representatives' demands. So much was achieved in these debates in fact that today we can be proud of a true democratisation process that is consistently growing and prospering. This is not to say we have reached the maximum degree of democracy that Jordan can hope for, however, and we are always looking forward to see more steps being taken towards institutionalising and strengthening our parliamentary and democratic processes.

None of us can underestimate or forget the external challenges and threats that stand in the way of our social and political development. But, at the same time, we cannot for a moment overlook the need for strengthening our internal front to stand up these challenges and threats. This is best done by working relentlessly to remove all barriers between the government and the people and by forging a full partnership between them based on mutual trust, confidence and shouldering of responsibility.

The prime minister gave us a clear example of his government's keenness to do just that when he replied positively and candidly to the Lower House members' inquiries and concerns during Monday's debate. And we are confident that this country will go from strength to strength as it continues the quest for real freedom and democracy.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: A position of strength

THE LOWER House of Parliament Monday unanimously endorsed the 1986 national budget which provides for further development and entails the implementation of projects to help achieve more progress for Jordan. The figures in the budget reflect the government's deep concern for the citizens and their welfare, and for helping brothers in the occupied West Bank strengthen their steadfastness in the face of Israeli arbitrary actions. The budget provides for bolstering the armed forces, the shield of this country, deployed along the longest confrontation lines with the enemy. Despite its meagre resources, Jordan, as the budget figures reflect, has succeeded over the years to make ambitious strides towards development and progress in all fields. Many of the citizens' aspirations have been realised and many of the dreams achieved. In trying to bolster its armed forces Jordan as the prime minister pointed out, does not accept any conditions or terms on arms purchases from any source. Jordan believes that justice should be established and peace must return to this region, and these can only come when the Arabs negotiate from a position of strength.

Al Dustour: Democratic debate

THE 1986 budget contained provisions for enhancing the country's defensive capabilities and presented measures for helping Jordanian citizens achieve further progress. The debate which took place in parliament Monday centred on issues of economy, defence and on strengthening the steadfastness of the Arab population under Israeli occupation. Deputies mentioned a number of points about these subjects and the government replied in a free and democratic manner. All the subjects were discussed in a manner reflecting the genuine cooperation spirit between the legislative and executive authorities in this country based on well-established principles of democracy. The prime minister took part in the discussions, explaining some points and emphasising the government's determination to go ahead with plans to achieve further development. Mr. Rifai also referred to national defence, emphasising the need for strengthening the armed forces for the sake of defending the motherland and liberating the usurped Palestinian land. The prime minister voiced concern over the mounting unemployment in Jordan and said that he hoped it will be dealt with in the course of implementing the coming five year plan.

Sawt Al Shaab: Debating the budget

A DEBATE that took place in parliament Monday focussed on the 1986 budget, but reflected the democratic experience and freedom which the Jordanian citizens enjoy. The debate reflects the government's firm commitment to carry out its programmes which are designed to achieve further progress and prosperity through the implementation of King Hussein's letter of appointment to the government. Speeches made by the different deputies in parliament manifested their concern with the implementation of these programmes and displayed their various thinking and views. The debate was based on a strong and firm perception of the meaning of democracy and on the frank and open understanding and cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities. The government was open and frank in its reply to the demands and views of the deputies and the prime minister explained the country's firm policies with regard to economic and social issues and also in regard to political stands and defence. The prime minister said that Jordan must seek to strengthen the armed forces to help liberate the usurped lands and to defend the nation. Building of the nation can only come through close cooperation and strong will.

The following are major excerpts from speeches delivered by a number of deputies during Monday's Lower House of Parliament debate on the 1986 draft budget. Excerpts from other speeches appeared in yesterday's issue of the Jordan Times.



Fawzi Tu'eimeh
(Balqa)

"Although I appreciate the government's relentless efforts in outlining the 1986 draft budget, I have certain remarks regarding pressing local issues.

"The kingdom still faces ever-increasing economic and social problems such as economic recession, stagnation in the agricultural sector, losses incurred by a number of large industries, high prices, veiled and unveiled unemployment.

"All these problems, in addition to a spread of consumption drive and higher education for Jordanian students abroad, represent a great challenge to the Kingdom's growth.

"In order to solve these problems, we should be informed on a regular basis on the cabinet's decisions and projects adopted in the 1986 budget.

"Allow me to raise some points which I believe should be highlighted.

"As the Armed Forces are the fortress against the Israeli expansionist policy I urge the government to search for the most advanced weapons without having to fall under political pressures of any kind. Moreover, under the wise leadership of His Majesty King Hussein Jordan can obtain advanced and sophisticated weapons at relatively moderate prices. In doing so, we will be able to strike a balance between the economic situation and military expenditure. Simultaneously, the People's Army project should be implemented and extended to all regions as soon as possible.

"The people in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip should be given due attention and support in order to enable them to counter the Israeli aggression. Support could be in the form of strengthening national institutions in the occupied territories.

In this regard, we call on the government to allow parliament members to join in the joint committee entrusted with distributing Arab funds to the occupied territories.

"On the agricultural sector, allocating JD 7 million to support farmers is not sufficient to solve the problems of vital sector. We request the government not take steps similar to those taken recently. The recent cancellation of fixed prices for local vegetables and fruits did not help the farmers and we support any measures taken to help the farmers instead of big dealers and brokers who benefit at the expense of farmers.

"We appreciate the government's measures to enhance industry but at the same time we question the criteria under which such support is granted as well as the kind of industries that will benefit from the support.

"As far as energy is concerned, we hope the government's drive for oil exploration is not affected by the recent drop in international oil prices. Moreover, we urge the government to recruit local expertise in the search for oil instead of foreign companies, which have lost credibility in the past years. Another request in this regard is for reports on the exploitation process on a regular basis to parliament.

"We hope the government would not cover the deficit at the expense of the public by levying direct or indirect customs," Mr. Tu'eimeh concluded.



Dr. Nazih Ammarin
(Karak)

"I believe that it is high time to impose a belt-tightening policy on Jordan's public and private expenditures and to increase Jordan's exports and decrease its imports.

"I also request that the Civil Service Commission should be given more support and freedom in choosing and recruiting civil servants on the basis of quality rather than favouritism, since a lot of complaints have been aired by the citizens about government officials.

"The Civil Service Commission Law of 1952 needs to be amended in a way to allow the commission to speak out frankly about violations without fearing any repercussions.

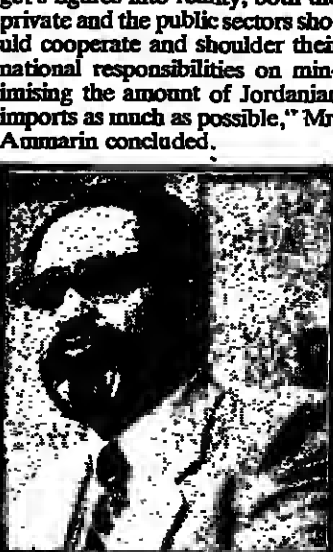
"The general auditing bureau entrusted with auditing the budgets of all ministries and corporations has revealed numerous embezzlements. Yet, its powers are limited and should be increased to punish all the violators.

"I am also waiting to hear the government's courageous decision on a number of public shareholding companies such as the Jordan glass, timber and television production companies, which have been proved unfeasible, while their monthly losses have reached JD 1 million.

"I hope that the government would show more support to the health sector and to implement a national medical insurance on all people since health is a basic aspect of human life.

"The government should also try to solve the problem of unemployment among local manpower. The government should issue measures regulating the imports of foreign labour as non-Jordanian labourers form 26 per cent of the local labour market."

"In order to translate the budget's figures into reality, both the private and the public sectors should cooperate and shoulder their national responsibilities on minimising the amount of Jordanian imports as much as possible," Mr. Ammarin concluded.



Yousef Al Atham
(Ma'an)

"Despite the great socio-economic achievements in Jordan, I believe that the issues of freedom, stability, education, retirement, housing, customs, expatriates, support and steadfastness of the West Bank, mineral resources and mining, the People's Army and the Jordanian Armed Forces should be given greater attention.

"I hope that freedom in Jordan would be encouraged in order to give Jordanians a clearer perception of important issues and I believe that both the legislative, and executive bodies should work more closely to attain greater freedom.

I also believe that the government should scrap the two-shift system in schools as this has negatively reflected on students.

"I wish to see the government establish a fourth university, which was called for by the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al Al Bait), in Ma'an Governorate so that it can accommodate more students who are unable to register at the three Jordanian universities.

"On the issue of retirement among civil servants, I have noticed that some of the Ministry of Education staff had been announced as pensioners. If carefully studied the situation would reveal that Jordan is losing both financial resources and expertise.

"I also hope that the government would launch more housing projects with interest-free loans and credit facilities.

"I believe that all food and clothes — food and clothes for the poor, in particular — should be exempted from customs."

"The situation of Jordanian expatriates and their problems should be carefully studied by the government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the aim of increasing the expatriates' trust in their homeland and encouraging them to return to Jordan and invest their money in feasible projects.

"Although our brethren in the occupied West Bank should be given financial support to strengthen their steadfastness, I believe that funds should be given directly to the projects and not to their supervisors, who have taken the funds and have used them to live a luxurious life.

"The southern regions of Jordan, an area rich in mineral resources due to its geographical location and to topography should be studied more carefully and the government should give the issue of mining more importance.

"The People's Army should be given more support to allow all Jordanians to join the paramilitary power to assist our strong armed Forces.



Mohammad Thawab
(Bethlehem)

Speaking for deputies Ismail Hijazi (Khalil), Farouk Hamdallah (Nablus), Nicola Aqel (Ramallah) and Fayyad Jarrar (Jenin).

We appreciate the efforts of the Financial Committee for presenting the draft budget as scheduled but we urge more support to the Arab population in the occupied territories as these people are the major factor thwarting the Israeli policy which aims to evict Arab inhabitants from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Therefore, our primary aim is to support their steadfastness, despite all obstacles. For this reason, we demand that the 1986-1990 development plan covers the West Bank in addition to Jordan. The West Bank administration should have special financial allocations from the budget in order not to be affected by any lack of Arab financial support.

The funds earmarked to this end should be monitored by a consultative committee as well as deputies from each constituency in the West Bank in order to make sure that funds are properly used. The government should also expedite the implementation of housing loans for West Bank teachers who have contributed to Ministry of Education housing fund since its establishment in 1980. We note that teachers on the East Bank have already cashed their 10th payment.

Regarding the agricultural sector, we request the government to extend support to West Bank farmers who are under financial pressure as a result of marketing difficulties. There should be sound coordination between the two banks regarding marketing and produce policies in order to avoid glut in the market. One of the reasons behind the failure of the agricultural investment policy is that it was not based on economic and technical criteria nor on sound priorities.

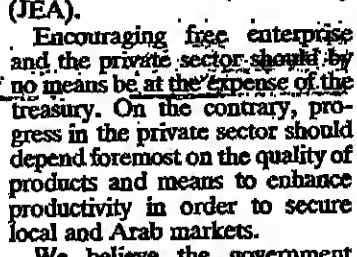
Supporting the Jordanian Armed Forces is a priority and the government should resort to all means in order to maintain the high standard of the army by securing necessary weapons from any possible source. In parallel, the public security forces should be given due attention on all levels in order to maintain stability in the Kingdom.

We also urge the reassessment of feasibility studies conducted on large economic projects in which the government is a shareholder. These projects are becoming financial burdens on the Kingdom's budget due to continuing losses.

We see no reason for the cabinet's recent decision to grant JD 2.4 million to the Irbid District Electricity Company. It would be better to merge the company with the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA).

Encouraging free enterprise and the private sector should by no means be at the expense of the treasury. On the contrary, progress in the private sector should depend foremost on the quality of products and means to enhance productivity in order to secure local and Arab markets.

We believe the government should try to cover the deficit by resorting to rationalisation of expenses instead of levying new customs and fees or signing domestic and foreign loans. Interest rates on the treasury's loans is expected to reach JD 129 million in 1986 which represents about 14 per cent of expenditure. We recommend the rationalisation of imports which could be substituted by local products.



Atti Abul Iz
(Aqaba)

"In order to achieve food security we have to strive to realise self-sufficiency in basic agricultural products.

"We can emulate the example of Saudi Arabia, which became a wheat-exporting country after many years of importing this basic product.

"We cannot achieve self-sufficiency without formulating a clear and well-defined agricultural policy. This goal also requires that the government gives more support to basic agricultural products."

"I support the government's efforts to protect the local industries through limiting the import of some commodities.

"Custom duties constitute 37 per cent of the domestic revenue. This means that Jordan is among countries with highest consuming levels. Therefore limiting the imports, particularly of complementary goods, will enhance the country's national economy and will preserve hard currencies inside the country.

"I hope that the government will pay more attention to Aqaba, particularly in administrative development, and to make use of it as a main touristic attraction in the country.

"I hope that the government will reconsider its policy of freeing prices of vegetables and fruits because their prices have risen in the market and the farmers have not benefited from the recent measures," Mr. Abul Iz concluded.

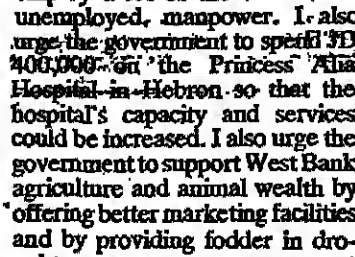


Mr. Wahid Al Ja'abari
(Hebron)

The health, education and public services in the occupied West Bank have deteriorated and I request the government to allocate the necessary funds in its budget to try and raise the standard of services in the West Bank and to strengthen the West Bank citizen's resistance to the Israeli occupation.

One of the issues which could promote steadfastness among our West Bank citizens would be to solve the problems of teachers who were appointed after 1967 and who are still getting low wages.

I call on the government to redistribute the municipalities fuel allocations in order to establish investment projects which could employ a lot of the skilled, but unemployed, manpower. I also urge the government to spend JD 400,000 on the Princess Alia Hospital in Hebron so that the hospital's capacity and services could be increased. I also urge the government to support West Bank agriculture and animal wealth by offering better marketing facilities and by providing fodder in drought seasons.



Ziad Younis
(Tulkarem and Qalqilya)

I totally support the Financial Committee's recommendations to support the steadfastness of our people in the occupied territories... and request the government to review travel procedures between the East and West Banks, including the flow of agricultural and industrial products.

There should be a plan for economic and social development within the Kingdom's budget, for the occupied territories. This plan should include provisions for:

1) Finding jobs for thousands of graduates in the West Bank. The bridges should be open for those who cannot be employed there to come here instead of emigrating out of the enemy's airports.

2) Supporting the agricultural and industrial sectors in the West Bank through allowing the marketing of products here and abroad and through extending loans to farmers and viable projects.

3) Allocating salaries to post-1967 government employees in the West Bank. Some 13,000 families of those employees are suffering from poverty because their present salaries are not enough for decent survival.

4) Creating new industries and projects in the occupied territories to employ more people who need jobs.

5) Supporting the health sector since costs have soared and facilities are not enough.

6) Expanding universities and community colleges and opening the doors for West Bank students to join Jordanian universities and helping them in paying the fees.

7) Allocating funds as necessary to strengthen services in the West Bank.

8) Establishing a social fund for the needy, the old and the handicapped.

I request the government to treat the Jerusalem municipality employees in a just way since these employees have reached a desperate situation.

9) Supporting municipal councils, which badly need help, and releasing frozen funds for them as well as setting up an alternative body to supervise the distribution of funds for these councils.

10) Upgrading the Tulkarem area from sub-district to full-district as the present population is now about 200,000.

Finally, I would like to thank the government for its efforts and for raising the allocations for the Ministry of Awaqif which has included the Sharia Institute at Qalqilya in its budget for this year.



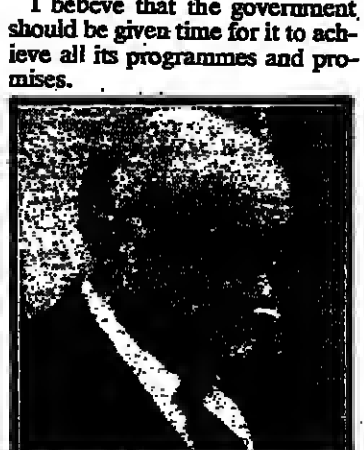
Hafiz Abdul Nabbi
(Hebron)

I would like to see a fixed budget for the West Bank which should not fluctuate according to the amount of Arab aid. The Princess Alia Hospital in Hebron needs a lot of money to upgrade its medical and health services, while West Bank graduates need more job opportunities and the Ministry of Higher Education should increase scholarships for West Bank students.

The government should also pay its 32 month dues for the pre-1967 West Bank government employees whose wages were stopped between 1971-1973, also the wages of the 1967 government employees should be raised because I believe they are very low.

West Bank citizens also have asked me to request the government to extend the period of West Bankers stay in Jordan from three months to 10 months, whereas those who work outside the West Bank should be allowed to stay in Jordan for three years. I urge the government to strengthen the West Bank's economy by allowing West Bank products to have access to Arab markets.

I believe that the government should be given time for it to achieve all its programmes and promises.



Amin Majjal
(Jerusalem and Jericho)

I am against the Financial Committee's recommendation which calls for decreasing the financial allocations used to finance feasibility studies since I believe that Jordan's socio-economic progress was mainly due to these studies. I also believe that the projects which are considered as complete failures were due to a lack of feasibility studies or inaccurate ones.

I call on each ministry and both the private and public sector companies and corporations to allocate special funds for research and development purposes. I support the committee's decision to choose local companies rather than foreign ones to do feasibility studies, but foreign consultants could be used in areas where local expertise fails.

I request the government to treat the Jerusalem municipality employees in a just way since these employees have reached a desperate situation.

Hassan Fathy — Contemporary pioneer of mud architecture

The higher demand for housing and the rise in the cost of building materials during the last three decades prompted scientific and architects to look for and study traditional building methods. One such traditional method is building in mud. In the following article, the second in a series of three, Jordan Times reporter Najwa Najjar reviews the history, techniques and contemporary pioneers of building in mud.

HASSAN FATHY has stood virtually alone extolling the virtues of cultural authenticity and return to the traditional forms and methods that have proven valid over the centuries. For most architects in the Near East Mr. Fathy is the dominant figure in the architecture of Egypt and the Arab World in the 20th century. Mr. Zulfikar of the Aga Khan Foundation for Islamic Architecture, commenting on Mr. Fathy said: "His qualities surpass those of an architect or builder, extending to those of a philosopher, a poet, an anthropologist and, above all, a social reformer. Hassan Fathy is an architect with a social vision whose professional life has been shrouded in humility and concern for the interests of the rural poor."

Mr. Fathy's strength resides in his ideas more than in his buildings. During his 60-year career he has built only 30 buildings, but the message they convey is powerful. Even though his ideas and achievements have received little attention in Egypt, they have been highly appreciated abroad. Enthusiasts have built accordingly in Algeria, Mauritania, Upper Volta, Niger, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Mexico and Jordan. One of Mr. Fathy's disappointments, which has remained until today, is that he was discovered by the West, and was not supported by the Arab World.

Hassan Fathy believes that architecture must be conceived especially for a given place and people, because each region has its own specific supply of raw materials, climate, and a unique socio-cultural heritage. Mr. Fathy's theory revolves around the concept that man is the centre of nature and is therefore embedded in nature's universal laws. The architect's mission is to harmonize architecture with nature so that architecture may serve as mediator between man and his environment. "To my mind the best definition of architecture is one that is the outcome of the interaction between the intelligence of man and his environment in satisfying his needs, both spiritual and physical."

Cultural elements, he feels, developed in response to indigenous needs, environmental and psychological, and alien elements cannot be implanted or transplanted from other cultures or other environments if they are culturally inappropriate. "It is said that if you put anything into the landscape that does not respect the natural environment, you will be punished, either by nature or man."

Culturally inappropriate elements that are inserted into the fabric of a harmoniously woven environment will, with time, generate contradictions and corrode and degrade the traditional culture. While promoting respect for regionalism, Fathy does not advocate for regional isolationism. He believes that a living culture must always remain open to the world, and borrow as well as invent new things. "There is nothing wrong if we take from the West, as long as it is suitable." However, Mr. Fathy rejects modern architecture on the basis that it strips human beings of their individuality and is not responsive to their needs. "The new techniques of construction and the new building materials such as reinforced concrete, steel and plastic have freed the architect from the constraints that traditional materials such as granite, marble, stone, and wood have imposed on him in the past. This freedom has offered him possibilities that are difficult to resist, but it cut him off from the benefits of the accumulated experience of

generations that have crystallized into traditions. Take for example prefabrication, you just have bulks which you carry with a crane and set with a crane; you see that man contributes nothing. Too often now we build this way. We build one house and put six zeros next to it, making it a million. But this mechanical process lead away from human harmony with nature, materials, and tradition. My point is, that nothing is fitting in. We have forgotten about nature in creating our present architecture. Hence, modern architecture has lost its meaning to modern man."

Hence Hassan Fathy turned to the timeless and universal values of architecture: "We might look at the classical architecture that has been preserved from antiquity and initiated to find an architecture that represents an ideal combination of nature and culture, that answered local needs, and that incorporates the human scale and tradition. Consider, for example, the work required for a handmade structure: the placing of every brick was the result of a decision, i.e. to put it here as an arch, and not there as a wall; and each such decision involved the basic nature of man. There is an aesthetic value, which is an integral part of the method of working by hand."

Architects, Mr. Fathy asserts, must remain true to the human dimension of their vocation if their work was not to lose all meaning. He pushes architects to understand the context in which they build, to determine what is essential to the place and the user. "The house, more than a shelter against rain, sun, dust, and other elemental afflictions, shelters us from the world. A house is not a machine to be lived in, it constitutes our private world. Dependable, unchanging, a constant refuge in the cultural avalanche



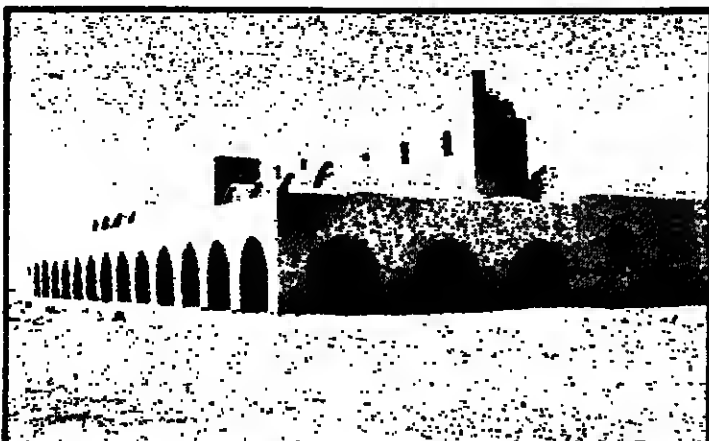
Hassan Fathy

that we call civilisation. If the family is the fundamental social group, the mediator and buffer between the individual and society, then the house has an analogous function between the individual and the world of things," said Hassan Fathy.

Therefore, he strongly believes that a suitable policy for rural housing and village rehabilitation, should merge available building technology with the aims of philosophy, thus ensuring that newly planned settlements would enable men to realise their true potential. "We have to bring our socio-economic planning to the level of the family and the individual man. Above all, we have to avoid the attitude adopted by some of the planners, who take the easy way out and try to transplant the town into village, succeeding only in creating a suburban environment instead of creating a supertown. The use of earth and vaulted roofs remains the only probable solution to the problem of peasant housing in the hot, arid zones. In that way we shall have subjected the technology to the interest and needs of the people, and not the other way around."

Possibly the most important contribution that Mr. Fathy has made was to focus the attention of architects, however briefly, away from the mainstream commissions of major buildings, on the problems of the poor. He was concerned with the masses of humanity that are living in poverty, and identified directly with the problem of shelter for the poor. He became one of the prime advocates, and most powerful voices, calling for a social consciousness in architecture in the 1970's and early 80's.

Mr. Fathy's teachings embrace both the highly abstract and the practical. His ability to synthesize polarities is well established. His architecture has brought together the sensibilities of the East with those of the West, urban form with rural, past with present as it aims to cultivate the future. "Mr. Fathy has created an architecture that emerges from the native soil, crystalline in its geometric form," commented Abdel Wahed El Wakil. When Hassan Fathy was given the award of the Union Internationale des Architectes in 1984, it was in recognition and appreciation of the enormous tribute of his ideas and buildings to his native culture and to architecture in the 20th century.



Agricultural cooperative, Baris, Kharga oasis, Egypt — Architect Hassan Fathy



Mud roofs, Iran — Architect Hassan Fathy



Mosque, New Mexico-U.S.A. — Architect Hassan Fathy



Shopping centre, New Gurna, Egypt — Architect Hassan Fathy

Fascinating performance reflects deep-rooted Chinese traditions

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Glimpses into the mysterious and fascinating world of ancient Chinese traditions are not always easy to come by and that was precisely what a visiting troupe of singers and dancers from Taiwan offered at a performance in Amman on Sunday.

Difficult as it is to do justice to the diverse aspects of the customs and culture of the vast, most populous nation of the world, the visitors also made a highly commendable effort in linking the past and present of China to underline the common bonds that bind the Chinese people, whether in the mainland or in Taiwan, regardless of ideological or political differences.

The 90-minute programme justifiably reflected the depth of the rich heritage of the Chinese culture and presented a rare in-sight into how smoothly and fluidly the Chinese people have managed to retain their cultural identity, despite the impositions brought upon them by the modern age.

"In fact, our programme portrays five distinctive faces of our cultural heritage," says Juan Chang-Kuo, director of the Chinese Youth Goo-Jwill Group, who heads the visiting team.

The five faces, according to Mr. Juan, represent centuries-old Chinese traditions as reflected in ancient songs and dances, Chinese

narrative arts, village folklore, "canopus mood" of today's Chinese youth and a yearning for international friendship.

While the first three faces are self-evident to the audience, "our canopus mood project the feeling among the youth and we have adopted some music and songs from other Far Eastern countries such as Japan, Thailand, the Philippines etc. as a symbol of our outstretched hand of friendship," Mr. Juan explained.

"These are essential indicators of the stages that the Chinese culture passed through over the centuries but they remain to be part of our life today," he added.

Quite distinctive also are the varying colourful costumes of the dancers — from a bright colorful dress of villagers to the simple but elegant tops and loose trousers of fan-dancers.

The language barrier breaks down itself as the dancers begin their graceful movements to the accompaniment of sweet melodious music of ancient China but jerk back when spear and sword-wielding youth come on stage to render an impressive performance of the steps of the ancient martial arts — Kung-Fu.

Lots of costumes but no instruments

Missing were the renowned Chinese instruments of music which produced the captivating

music. "In practical terms, it is impossible for us to carry around our instruments," explained Mr. Juan. "As it is, we are carrying 38 boxes of costumes," he said.

"Therefore we opted, though with reluctance, for tape music." The Chinese Youth Goo-Jwill Group operates under the guidance and sponsorship of Taiwan's Ministry of Education and all its members are students in the 19-22 age group, drawn from the 130 institutions affiliated to the 80 universities and colleges in the country.

"We are carriers of Taiwan's goodwill for the international community," according to Mr. Juan. "Two other teams from our group are currently touring the U.S. and the team now in Jordan is assigned to the Midwest."

The 17-member team — of which eight girls and six boys are the actual performers — visited Cyprus and Bahrain before arriving in Jordan on Saturday. Sunday's performance at the Department of Arts and Culture Theatre in Jabal Luweiddeh was the group's second in Jordan; it went on stage at the Swaga Theatre Service on Saturday.

"We did not know what to expect in Jordan, having our knowledge of the country on what we have been reading in the newspapers," Mr. Juan commented. "But we were quite surprised to find peace and tranquillity, which we have to admit, were contrary to whatever we had been expecting."



Nicaragua: Ecology under siege

Nicaraguan biologists and ecologists do not have the luxury of much government money. They must devise ingenious programmes which conserve the natural environment while providing tangible benefits in a war economy. R.C. Sabatier is Senior Editor at Earthscan.

LONDON — Nicaragua's young director of national parks, Lorenzo Cardenal, takes his job seriously. Despite the desperate political and economic straits in which his country finds itself, he maintains that the natural environment is important.

"Within the context of the war, our choices are limited," Cardenal argues. "Yet we must find ways of protecting the environment, even if all this means under the present circumstances is learning how to damage it in the least permanent way." His pragmatic environmentalism has developed under fire. Field trips to Nicaragua's rainforest regions must be made with Sandinista army patrols. Parks personnel are often ambushed, and some have been kidnapped and killed by the rebel "Contras."

But Cardenal remains optimistic. "We have reserves of geothermal and hydroelectric energy, fertile volcanic soil, pure underground aquifers, a wealth of uncatalogued plant species whose commercial potential is as yet unknown, forests, fisheries and scenery to amaze any tourist."

He maintains that "the war is the main ecological problem in Nicaragua now." He lists three types of effects, the first of which is the direct impact of the guerrilla war. Though napalm and defoliants, the weapons of the Vietnamese war, have not yet been used, the Sandinista government estimates that Contras have burned 100,000 hectares of forest, causing a loss of \$6 million in timber exports.

Next, it has been estimated that some 90 per cent of Nicaragua's staple foods — beans, maize, rice and sorghum — are produced in areas threatened by fighting. Aid agencies reckoned that by the end of 1984, some 140,000 people had abandoned their homes to seek shelter in towns and cities. Official Nicaraguan figures put the resultant crop losses during 1980-84 at \$75 million. An additional 70,000 people are thought to have fled the forests.

The urban influx has caused water shortages. In the capital city of Managua, drinking water is rationed by zone and is available in each zone only five days a week. Every day, newspapers report the level of water in the volcanic lagoon which supplies the city. Par-

resources research and public education will be shut down by the end of the year. — Earthscan feature.

ched during the summer. Mangroves endure floods every rainy season because the drainage basin in which their city sits is so badly managed.

Third, indirect impacts of the war have also been disruptive. Forestry projects closed when seed banks were destroyed, vehicles blown up and project workers kidnapped. Farmers are no longer taught soil conservation techniques, and the collection and study of new plant species has ceased.

The economic hardships produced by war and the U.S. blockade of Nicaragua have led to worsening oil shortages, Cardenal said. These require increased use of firewood.

The energy crisis has prompted Nicaraguan planners to turn to big hydroelectric projects, which compete with agriculture for scarce water resources. Last year the agriculture ministry developed the "Sehaco plan" to use water from the Matagalpa and Vieja rivers for irrigation of a new food crop plantation. Meanwhile the water ministry had developed the Medina project, which involved damming and diverting the same rivers to produce electricity.

Simultaneously, the two schemes were submitted by their respective departments to the governing council for funding approval, at which point it became apparent that they were mutually exclusive. Such conflicts over water are bound to increase the need for the creation of a national environmental advisory commission. Cardenal maintains.

But he admits, ruefully, that his government is at present unable to devote attention to what Nicaraguan environmentalists are saying. The Nicaraguan Association of Biologists and Ecologists, of which he is a member, is worried by current trends. In the face of economic collapse, President Daniel Ortega has declared 1986 the "year of national survival."

Half of the country's budget goes to defence, with health and education given priority for the little money that is left after interest payments have been made on the \$3.4 billion national debt. The association believes it likely that the national parks programme and all government-supported natural

Peace prize doctors symbolically united

By James Jelter
Reuter

OSLO — When Soviet journalist Lev Novikov suffered a heart attack at a news conference here on Monday, he was lucky to have two of the world's leading cardiologists in the same room.

American Bernard Lown and Yevgeny Chazov of the Soviet Union, accepting this year's Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of "International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW)", rushed from the podium to give him treatment.

Lown later called the act a "symbolic exclamation mark in both our careers."

"What we witnessed in that room — sudden cardiac death — was what brought Chazov and me together in the first place, long before we discussed founding the IPPNW," Lown told Reuters.

"I can categorically state that had Novikov not received immediate medical attention, he would have become another grave statistic," Lown said.

On Wednesday doctors said Novikov was in critical but stable condition at an Oslo hospital.

Lown, a professor of cardiology at the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, established his medical reputation in 1955 when he showed how the body's loss of electrolytes left the heart vulnerable to certain drugs then favoured in treating heart attack patients.

This led him to investigate the role of electrical impulses in the cases of sudden cardiac death, which he called the highest killer in the industrialised world. It resulted in his invention of the defibrillator in 1960.

The defibrillator, a device for electrically shocking the heart into

a normal rhythm after cardiac arrest, "ended the era of sudden cardiac death," said Lown, adding: "death is no longer final, but contingent on our ability to reverse it."

Among Lown's other contributions to cardiology are the cardioverter, now considered essential equipment in coronary care units, and the drug lignocaine.

"Progress was not easy, however," said Lown. "Sudden cardiac death occurs most commonly in the home or on the street. I found very little interest for this problem in the U.S. simply because most medical researchers, sheltered in clinical, academic environments, rarely have to face it."

Lown said he decided to exploit what he called the "Sputnik syndrome" — the idea that anything the Soviet Union was working on would excite interest in the United States.

He first talked with Soviet doctors in 1968, but got little response until 1972, when he met Chazov, the Director General of the Soviet Cardiology Research Centre and a member of the Soviet Academy of Medical Sciences.

Chazov pioneered a Soviet programme of first aid for heart attack victims, and showed enthusiastic support for Lown's work.

During the Nixon-Brezhnev era of détente in the early 1970's, Chazov and Lown were appointed by their respective governments to coordinate cardiology research in the U.S.-Soviet Health Exchange Programme.

Their common professional interests took a dramatic turn in 1979 when Lown proposed to Chazov that physicians in both east and west bloc nations take a joint stand against the nuclear arms race. His initiative led to the founding of the IPPNW.

Designer drug 'Eve' invades California

By Ronald Clarke
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — First there was Ecstasy. Now there is Eve. Eve is stimulating, easily purchased, and popular at parties. It is a legal killer, and it is spreading rapidly through California.

A powdery white substance, Eve is the latest "designer drug," a synthetic heroin sold on the streets of California to an estimated 26,000 users at as much as 10,000 times its original value.

"Designer drugs are spreading at a frightening rate, and all signs point to an explosive growth in the near future," California Attorney General John Van de Kamp said recently.

"Anyone buying it is playing

Russian Roulette with his brain," he declared, adding, "it is also as legal as aspirin."

State drug enforcement officials estimate 20 per cent of the 130,000 heroin addicts in California, the centre of the designer drug industry, use Eve.

Designer drugs, so called because they can be produced to meet user tastes, are made by chemists in backroom laboratories.

U.S. laws define illegal drugs by listing their chemical formula. So when a designer drug is outlawed, chemists slightly change its molecular make-up, and the drug becomes legal again.

When Ecstasy was outlawed, the backroom chemists altered a few molecules in the formula, and came up with Eve.

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French coach Michel looks for 'surprises'

PARIS (AP) — Henri Michel, coach of the reigning European champion French team, was quoted Tuesday as saying it was essential for the Blues to win their group in next year's World Cup football tournament in Mexico.

In an interview with the sports daily L'Equipe Michel said he was content with a drawing Sunday that put France in Group C with Canada, the Soviet Union and Hungary. He also expressed concern about the effect Mexico's heat and altitude might have on play.

"If I said I was satisfied to face the Soviet Union, Hungary and Canada I would appear pretentious," he told L'Equipe. "If I said I was uneasy that would be to deny our strength. Perhaps it's better to meet Hungary and the Soviets rather than the Scots or the Danes."

"I say perhaps. The only really interesting element is that we meet Canada first, presumably the weakest team in the group."

Asked what he knew about the Canadian team, Michel replied, "I saw them in the 1984 Olympics. They are very physical but they

have a flagrant lack of international competition."

Michel said he was always concerned about Soviet opponents whether they were clubs or the national team.

"They play well and they prepare well," he said. "That said I wonder if the altitude and the heat will not work against them when they press. Mexico should suit teams capable of breaking the rhythm. Either the Russians will change their style or they will be consistent and train like cosmonauts."

Michel, who was in Mexico for the draw, saw another Group C opponent Hungary beat Mexico 2-0 Saturday in Toluca.

"It is very difficult to judge Hungary from this match because they really did not show what they can do," he said. "They were nowhere near as good as they were in the eliminations. But the future

will tell."

To a suggestion that Hungary's feeble goal production might have been due to a lack of adaptation to the altitude, Michel replied, "They've been here 15 days."

The reply indicated some concern about the altitude and other factors that might influence play in Mexico, L'Equipe said. All that Michel would say further was that he expected "surprises, many surprises."

Asked what he thought France's chances were of winning the first group, Michel said: "I don't assess our chances. I say that our ambition is to finish first in the group."

The French will begin preparing for the World Cup with a Dec. 22-Jan. 2 high-altitude training session at Fort Romeu in the Pyrenees, which the Soviet team will also visit in April.

France plays friendly matches in Paris against Northern Ireland on Feb. 26 and against Argentina on March 22 before returning to another training session May 3-16 in Fort Romeu. The Blues leave for Mexico May 19.



Wimbledon champion and West German 'Sportsman of the Year' Boris Becker follows in the footsteps of Sweden's Bjorn Borg this weekend as he attempts to lead the West German Davis Cup team to victory over Sweden. (Photo: INP/Norbert Schmidt)

Is Boris Becker West Germany's Bjorn Borg?

By Paul Radford
Reuters

BONN — Teenage Wimbledon Champion Boris Becker looks set to inspire a tennis revolution of the kind Bjorn Borg launched in Sweden as he leads West Germany into next weekend's Davis Cup final.

Becker's explosion on to the world tennis scene this year has evoked strong memories of the arrival of Borg's precocious teenage talent more than a decade ago.

Ironically, it is a new generation of young Swedes spawned by Borg's example which stands in the way of Becker's attempt to imitate the cool Swedish superstar by guiding his country to the world's premier team title.

Borg was just 19 when he led Sweden to their first ever Davis Cup triumph in 1975, winning both his singles and the doubles in the 3-2 victory over Czechoslovakia.

The burden of West German hopes for their first Davis Cup win in the final with Sweden in Munich's Olympiastadion now rests firmly on the broad shoulders of 18-year-old Becker.

Becker's youthful insensitivity to pressure will be needed for he may well have to win both his singles and the doubles if the reigning champions are to be beaten.

It took a few years before the Borg legacy to Swedish tennis became apparent with the emergence of a clutch of young topseed talents, led by Mats Wilander, in the upper echelons of the world rankings.

Whether the new B.B. will be followed by a wave of West German serve-and-volley stars remains to be seen but his domestic impact has been immediate and dramatic.

Apart from the predictable rush of star-struck youngsters to pick up a racket, a previously unenthusiastic public has suddenly gone tennis-crazy.

Telescreens cater for this newfound passion by providing almost saturation coverage of the sport, including many of Becker's matches live and in full.

Awards and honours have been heaped on the young hero, whose fresh face smiles from the front cover of a host of magazines on the news-stands.

Few would have given much for West Germany's Davis Cup chances at the beginning of the year yet they have brushed aside the challenges of such traditional tennis nations as the United States and Czechoslovakia.

In March Becker became the youngest player to represent his country when he made his Davis Cup debut against Spain.

England: the sick man of soccer

By Robert Millward
AP Sports Writer

LONDON — The fans are staying away, sponsors are pulling out and TV cameras can't get in. In England, the cradle of soccer, the professional game is in decline.

Facing crippling salaries and falling attendances, once-wealthy clubs are heavily in debt. Some teams, such as Wolverhampton Wanderers, which plummeted from the first division to the bottom of the third in two years, are close to folding.

Domestic soccer has been off the television screens since August following a long-running financial dispute between the clubs and the TV companies. Earlier this month, the deadlock intensified when officials announced that broadcasts would be suspended at least until the end of the current season.

The double tragedies last May, when 56 fans died in a fire at Bradford and 39 fans were killed in Brussels during a riot, were thought to have fanned the wave of disaster.

Because Liverpool fans were mainly responsible for the rioting that led to the Brussels deaths at the European Champions' Cup final, English clubs were banned indefinitely from the three European club competitions, traditional incentives for success.

But fans and sponsors contend that professional soccer in England was on the slide even before the Bradford and Brussels disasters.

A survey conducted by the international magazine, World Soccer, showed that the average attendance at English first division games has plummeted more than 30 per cent in the last 15 years, from 30,204 in 1970 to 20,517 last season.

Michael Hancock, from the central English industrial town of West Bromwich, watched his local soccer team for more than 20 years until he became disillusioned and took up playing rugby union instead.

"Watching professional soccer just didn't interest me any more. I was watching vastly over-paid prima donnas serving up rubbish for fans who had to put up with lousy facilities."

"Season after season, the players' wages went up and the supporters' entrance charges went up, but there was no improvement in the ground facilities or the standard of play," Hancock, a 38-year-old factory worker, told the Associated Press.

"I hardly ever came away from a game thinking I had got my money's worth," he said.

Rundown stadiums and rowdiness are factors, but primarily it is the low quality of soccer that upsets the fans. Although the English soccer league is regarded as highly competitive, experts say the skill factor has been replaced by work-rate speed and over-zealous defence.

Bill Goulden, who runs a photo-publishing business in central England, has witnessed the decline of soccer and the boom in other spectator sports, especially ice hockey.

"I used to think nothing of paying out \$56,000 in advertising and sponsorship of a local soccer club, but now I don't see what I get out of it and I don't bother."

"There was a time my company would print 30,000 match-day programmes for a first division soccer game, but these days we only need to print around 1,500," he said.

Peter Sinclair, managing director of a computer manufacturing company, said the \$14,000 he is spending this year on sponsorship and advertising at soccer grounds represented about a quarter of his outlay in previous seasons.

He, too, has decided to plow

\$28,000 to \$35,000 into hockey. "I have been a soccer fan all my life, but I just became disillusioned with the game, especially at the end of last season when the Bradford and Brussels tragedies occurred," Sinclair said in an interview.

An American hamburger chain (Wendys) has just announced a \$28,000 sponsorship of the Southampton Hockey Club in South London. And a Dutch lager brewery (Heineken), last month announced it was pouring \$350,000 worth of sponsorship into the British Hockey League.

Millionaire rock star Elton John, who is chairman of the English first division club Watford, said soccer's decline had forced him to shelve plans to build a new \$4.2 million spectators' stand.

"One of the reasons we are not building the stand is because I don't think we will get enough people to sit in it," he said on television.

"Soccer has reached its lowest ebb. Stadiums in this country are just disgraceful. Yet when you go to an American sporting venue, whether it's basketball or ice hockey, (gridiron) football or baseball, it's a pleasure."

Watford manager Graham Taylor, in a television interview Saturday, said British soccer has been on the decline for a number of years and that the Bradford and Brussels incidents "toppled it over the edge."

Other televised sports, especially snooker, have created such enormous interest that soccer has hardly been missed.

Iraqis confident of surviving Group B

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Soccer managers and commentators said Monday they were not altogether unhappy about the drawing that grouped Iraq with Mexico, Belgium and Paraguay in next June's World Cup soccer finals.

"It will be a difficult, but by no means impossible, task for Iraqi footballers to emerge victorious in the initial eliminations and go into the 16's round," the newspaper Baghdad Observer commented.

"In fact, Iraq is lucky to be in the same group with these teams."

Sports commentator Youssef Juwaidah told reporters "we are not afraid of the Mexican team, and Paraguay's team is the weakest in Latin America."

"The Belgian team's road to Mexico was extremely difficult, and we can beat them," he said.

The Bahrain-based Gulf News Agency meanwhile quoted the sports editor of the Baghdad new-

spaper Al Baath as saying that "our team stands a handsome chance of reaching the 16's round in Mexico."

"I reckon the Iraqis put up far better performances when they compete with stronger teams, and they are not in their best fitness in the face of weaker teams," said the editor, Abbas Al Jenani.

Most sports managers and commentators here credited Brazilian coach Jorge Vieira for the past three months of training that put the Iraqi national team at the head of West Asian teams and enabled it along with South Korea's team to represent Asia in the 1986 World Cup finals.

These managers said the Iraqi Football Association was in the process of engaging one additional coach to assist Vieira in preparing the national team for the Mexico finals.

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(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.4380/90	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3956/61	Canadian dollars
	2.5108/18	West German marks
	2.8780/95	Dutch guilders
	2.1035/50	Swiss francs
	51.28/33	Belgian francs
	7.6825/75	French francs
	1712/1714	Italian lire
	201.85/95	Japanese yen
	7.6800/50	Swedish crowns
	7.6400/50	Norwegian crowns
	9.1220/70	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	321.25/322.15	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed lower on profit-taking in a market seeing little buying interest dealers said. At 1530 G.M.T the FTSE 100 index was 14 points down at 1,365.5.

Charterhouse Petroleum was a net 45p up at 101 after merger terms from Petrofina worth 107p per share. Logica was 17p up at 154 having topped 164 after the bid general from Electronic Data Systems Corp, a subsidiary of General Motors.

Government bonds firmed up to 4 point helped by steadier sterling but equities closed lower apart from gold which responded to the higher bullion price. North American were mixed. ICI was 3p off at 731. Unilever shed 10p to 1,250 while Lucas ended 2p higher at 428 following Monday's annual general meeting.

Guinness Peat was 3p lower at 73 after its recently increased offer of over £281 million for Britannia Arrow was rejected by the company. Britannia Arrow closed 2p down at 141. BET was 2p off at 358 after its recent bid for SGB valued the company at 270p per share. SGB advanced 4p to 262.

Saudi prince pledges help to jobless Arab women

RIYADH (AP) — Prince Talal bin Abdul Aziz, president of the Arab Gulf programme for U.N. Development Agencies (Aghfund), has promised aid to Gulf Arab women seeking more job opportunities, it was reported here Monday.

Aghfund is a funding agency which doates millions of dollars to U.N. humanitarian organisations. Prince Talal, the founder of Aghfund, on Monday met the directors of the women's coordinating committee for the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula.

The Kuwait-based organisation is seeking to improve conditions for women in the Gulf, not only on traditional feminist grounds of work opportunities, but also for basic hygiene and healthcare of children.

Aghfund's director of women and child affairs, Mrs. Farida Allaghi, told the English language daily Arab News that a dearth of information on bedouin and even educated city-dwelling women hampers efforts.

Present data is that women make up 50 per cent of the Gulf Arab states populations. However, women make up only a fraction of the workforce.

This is due to religious tradition in some cases, and in others to the increased affluence which renders a woman's economic contributions unnecessary, said Mrs. Allaghi.

Consequently, Iraq, whose manpower is drained by its prolonged war with Iran, has the highest percentage, 17.4 of women in its workforce. Kuwait has 11.4 per cent, Bahrain 9.4 per cent, Saudi Arabia seven per cent, (mostly in rural areas), the United Arab Emirates 3.4 per cent, Qatar 2.9 per cent and Oman two per cent, she said.

The group has no desire to overturn the existing order, but instead is seeking methods for increasing female economic participation within the context of Islamic propriety, she added.

Meanwhile, the number of people employed in Saudi Arabia rose 46.9 per cent during the third five year plan, according to a ministry of planning report published Monday.

But although Saudi employment increased 20.7 per cent from 1.4 million to 1.6 million, expatriates increase during the same period rose by 73.5 per cent to 2.17 million, said the report, published in the English-language newspaper Saudi Gazette.

Women workers numbered 136,800.

The third five year plan, which ended last March, however, does not take into account the decline in jobs since that time. The report said that the large increase was in unskilled jobs, a category that has been hardest hit by the downturn in construction.

The report said that at the end of the third five year plan, unskilled workers numbered 1.4 million, manual semi-skilled and skilled workers numbered 1.43 million, office workers were 1.0 million, and professional university degree jobs rose to 593,900.

The ministry of planning, headed by Mr. Hisham Nazer, said employment in agriculture, mining, manufacturing, utilities and construction rose 45 per cent — to 2.1 million.

The services sector grew even faster, by 59 per cent — to 1.8 million.

Employment in trade and commercial activity zoomed up by 72 per cent — to 556,000. But the highest growth rate, of 162 per cent, was recorded by the banking and finance sector, with 136,300 employees.

The non-oil sector's requirement for workers rose 46 per cent, and presently uses 98.5 per cent of the kingdom's workers, the report added.

Mr. Saouda said last year's famine resulted from the fastest population growth in the world combined with a decade-long decline in food production. The crisis had been aggravated by the drought.

A new assessment of African food production drawn up by FAO experts says Africa is producing enough maize to meet its needs for the first time in years.

But while several countries, such as the Sudan and the Sahel nations in West Africa, have produced record harvests this year, they face problems transporting and distributing food to other parts of the same region still in short supply.

Zimbabwe, Kenya and Malawi have more grain than they need and will be able to export part of the surplus.

"We have to build a bridge from emergency to sustained development. Without rehabilitation

assistance, Africa risks becoming irreversibly dependent on food aid," he added.

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"We have to build a bridge from emergency to sustained development. Without rehabilitation

Gulf Arab states shelve rail plan

BAHRAIN (R) — Plans for a trans-Gulf railway linking member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have been shelved for the time being for cost reasons, a GCC official said Monday.

He told Reuters from Riyadh that a feasibility study, commissioned by the GCC, showed initial cost at about \$4 billion.

The study was discussed by GCC transport ministers at a meeting in Riyadh last week. They recommended more research before a final decision was taken, the official said.

The proposal, first mooted in 1983, envisaged a rail link between the six GCC countries — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — to be extended later to Baghdad.

Experts study alternative energy for Arab World

KUWAIT (R) — Arab oil experts wound up two days of talks here Monday focusing on ways to expand the use of renewable sources of energy such as wind and solar power.

This would enable the Arab World to preserve its precious and depletable oil reserves, delegates said.

The talks were held under the auspices of the Kuwait-based Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), which said in a statement the delegates discussed problems limiting the use of alternative, renewable energy resources.

It underlined a need to continue to exchange ideas on ways to exploit such resources.

The experts looked at the scope for joint Arab cooperation in this field, and steps to identify prospective projects.

Delegates from the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council — grouping Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — along with Djibouti, Iraq, Jordan, Libya and Tunisia attended the talks.

Oslo averts budget crisis

OSLO (R) — Norway's centre-right coalition government Tuesday reached agreement with a small opposition party to avert a crisis over its 1986 budget.

Prime Minister Kaare Willoch told reporters his minority government had agreed to allocate 201 million crowns (\$25 million) in extra welfare spending.

The compromise agreement with the Progress Party gives Mr. Willoch's government the necessary votes to obtain a majority and marks the end of his first major test.

The Progress Party, an anti-tax protest group, had joined opposition leaders in demanding Norway's 1986 budget spent more on child benefits, old age pensions and hospitals.

U.S. recession looms in '87, economists say

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States should enjoy slightly better economic growth next year but a recession looms as a growing possibility in 1987, American business economists said Monday.

The National Association of Business Economists said its latest poll of 300 of its members found an overwhelming 85 per cent believe the country will be in a recession by the end of 1987.

Only 15 per cent of those polled believed the current recovery, which is now entering its fourth year, would survive into 1988 or beyond.

The economists also expressed little confidence in the legislation Congress passed last week requiring a balanced budget by 1991.

A substantial majority, 95 per cent, said they did not believe the balanced budget bill was an effective way to reduce soaring federal budget deficits, objecting in part to the automatic nature of the cuts.

The problem, as the economists see it, is that federal budget cuts will reduce the stimulus needed to drive the economy forward and that the alternative, raising taxes, also would retard economic growth.

"There is no question that our members think that 1987 is the most likely year for a recession," said Mr. Kathleen Cooper, president of the association. "If we start to cut spending or raise taxes

during 1986, it is going to make 1987 an even rougher year."

She said many of the business economists believed the budget cuts or tax increases could actually push a weak economy into a recession.

Despite the potential impact in 1987, Ms. Cooper said there had been positive short-term effects already from the balanced budget legislation.

Like other economists, she credited the strong rallies in both the stock market and bond markets to confidence the proposal would lead to lower interest rates and a stronger economy in the months ahead.

The business economists, at least through next year, agree with the assumptions of the financial market, forecasting stronger growth for 1986 than they did in an earlier survey.

"Economists are beginning to see signs of a revival in the economy, including a stronger stock market, and this makes us believe that the near term is going to be stronger than we thought just three months ago," Ms. Cooper said.

Among the forecasts contained in the latest survey:

As for when the next recession will begin, 37 per cent of the economists surveyed said it would start sometime in 1986, while 46 per cent pegged 1987 as the likely starting point. Fifteen per cent said they believed the current recovery, which began in December 1982, would last into 1988 or beyond.

Interest rates, as measured by the benchmark prime rate, will end next year right where they are now, at 9.5 per cent. Just three months ago, the economists were predicting interest rates would go higher, with the prime rate hitting 10 per cent.

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Comecon leaders begin talks to align technology work

MOSCOW (R) — Prime ministers of the East Bloc economic grouping Comecon Tuesday began a two-day extraordinary meeting in Moscow, a Comecon press spokesman said.

The prime ministers of Bulgaria, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Mongolia and East Germany, and deputy prime ministers from Vietnam and Cuba arrived Monday.

The meeting, the first under new Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, appears aimed at gearing East Bloc economies more closely to the Soviet Union's own plans for growth fuelled by new technology.

The heads of government will also put finishing touches to the coordination of their national five-year economic plans.

Centre-piece will be a Soviet-inspired programme for research and development of technology that Soviet officials have compared with the European Community's "Eureka" programme.

Western diplomats said the meeting would also give additional pointers to the East European states on the degree of economic independence that Moscow will tolerate under the leadership of Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev.

Western diplomats said the meeting appeared to have been called because of Soviet concern that the plans of the more advanced East European states had not been sufficiently integrated with Moscow's needs for new technology.

The new Soviet plan, which starts on Jan. 1, emphasises outpacing and upgrading obsolete machinery. Much of the input is expected to come from Moscow's partners like East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

As well as those three, Comecon includes Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Mongolia, Vietnam and Cuba. The premiers last met in June and had not been expected to meet again for six months.

The extraordinary meeting was seen as the latest sign of Soviet impatience with the organisation.

Under its rules, countries trade on a bilateral basis in non-convertible currencies. Each state agrees to specialise in certain industrial fields.

The Kremlin has used oil, which it supplies in large quantity to its East European partners, as a major lever. The Comecon states have had to accept cuts in oil imports as the Kremlin has diverted scarce supplies to the world market.

The prime ministers are also expected to discuss efforts by Mr. Gorbachev to establish direct political relations between Comecon and the European Community.

Mr. Gorbachev, who has taken a firmer hand with East Europe than his elderly and ailing predecessors, has signalled impatience over delays in working out greater integration among the East Bloc economies.

Moscow has repeatedly complained to its Comecon partners that they are unloading second rate production on the Soviet Union while reserving high-quality output for hard currency trade with the West.

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— The overall economy, as measured by the gross national product, will grow 2.9 per cent in 1986. While this would be an improvement over the expected 2.5 per cent rate of growth this year, it still would be far below the 6.8 per cent expansion in 1984. The administration of President Ronald Reagan is forecasting four per cent growth next year.

Inflation will remain in check, with consumer prices rising at a four per cent rate next year, up only slightly from the expected 3.5 per cent increase this year. Six months ago, the economists were predicting 1986 inflation would reach 4.5 per cent.

Despite the slightly improved growth rate, unemployment will remain stuck where it is now, averaging 7.2 per cent in 1986, the same as 1985.

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100,000 people welcome Aquino at home province

TARLAC, Philippines (AP) — A crowd estimated unofficially at 100,000 people lined roadways and leaned out of windows to welcome opposition presidential candidate Corason Aquino into her home province of Tarlac Tuesday.

A brass band played in welcome as Mrs. Aquino and Vice Presidential Candidate Salvador Laurel toured the province. Supporters, including many children, waved for the opposition couple and carried banners denouncing President Ferdinand Marcos.

"We no longer have to be afraid," Mrs. Aquino told a crowd that surrounded an open vehicle carrying her and Mr. Laurel through the town of Bamban.

Banners, placards, confetti and chants of "Cory, Cory, Cory" greeted the opposition's 25-car motorcade as it passed along a two-lane highway through four towns for a large rally in the provincial capital, also called Tarlac, 113 kilometers north of Manila.

Residents screamed and cheered as Mrs. Aquino, Marcos' rival in a Feb. 7 special presidential election, waved from atop an open pickup truck. Children, youths and some adults chased after the motorcade, many on

bicycles and motorcycles.

"For too long Marcos has suppressed us," Mrs. Aquino said in Tagalog through a megaphone. "We will no longer allow ourselves to be oppressed."

Meanwhile the Philippine supreme court heard petitions Tuesday questioning the legality of elections set for Feb. 7 while President Ferdinand Marcos and his opponent Corason Aquino campaigned in their home provinces.

Mr. Marcos and running mate Arturo Tolentino were in Laoag, capital of Ilocos Norte province, on their second trip out of Manila since campaigning officially began last week.

"Mr. Marcos said in a speech in his home town that his challenger had no programme but sincerity, sought only vengeance and was inexperienced and unqualified."

The supreme court listened for two hours to petitions questioning the validity of the election before adjourning until Wednesday.

Eleven groups of petitioners asked the court to rule that the election was unconstitutional because the presidency had not been vacated.

Mr. Marcos, who has ruled for 20 years, called the election ahead of the end of his six-year term in 1987. He says he wants a fresh mandate for government policies, including his fight against a mounting Communist insurgency.

He has tendered his resignation effective only after a new president has been elected and sworn into office, but the petitioners argued that such a post-dated departure was invalid.

Former Chief Justice Enrique Fernando and several lawyers said they believed the election was unlawful but asked the court to allow the poll to go ahead, saying that the survival of the Philippines was at stake.

"The spirit is more important than the language of the constitution," said Mr. Fernando, who retired last month and appeared as a "friend of the court."

Former Vice-President Emmanuel Pelaez, speaking in the same role, said: "Above and beyond the constitution, the national survival depends on the forthcoming snap polls."

Gandhi, Zia discuss bilateral issues

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Leaders of Pakistan and India held talks Tuesday in an effort to ease tension between their countries, caused mainly by mutual suspicion over nuclear programmes and the disputed territory of Kashmir.

Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq met Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi during a six-hour stopover on his way home after visits to Sri Lanka and the Maldives. It was their sixth meeting since Mr. Gandhi took office in October last year.

An Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman said the two leaders would discuss "issues of mutual interest with a view to strengthening and expanding our bilateral relations."

"There are often misgivings which we have voiced over certain aspects of Indo-Pakistani relations," he added.

Pakistan's nuclear programme, which it insists is peaceful, was likely to dominate the talks. Mr. Gandhi said last week Pakistan should answer charges it was making a nuclear bomb by explaining why it was producing enriched uranium.

Pakistan's atomic energy chief Munir Ahmad was present at a ceremony Monday when Mr. Gandhi launched India's first breeder test reactor in the South Indian town of Kalpakkam.

The two countries, which have fought three wars since 1947, are also at odds over India's claim that Sikh extremists hide shelter in Pakistan.

Another factor threatening to overshadow the meeting was Gen. Zia's pledge to help Sri Lanka "without reservations" in its battle against the island's Tamil separatist guerrillas.

"I wish we were an arms producing country and I would have put all weapons at the disposal of Sri Lanka because you cannot allow countries to be wrecked from within," Gen. Zia told reporters in Colombo on Sunday.

Sri Lanka says the guerrillas operate from bases in southern India, a charge denied by New Delhi.

Mr. Gandhi refused Monday to comment on reports that Pakistan had trained more than 150 Sri Lankan soldiers in anti-guerrilla warfare and had also provided small arms and ammunition.

"We have to see about that. It seems to be a question of training. I am talking to (Zia) tomorrow. We can talk things over with him," he told reporters in southern Madras city.

Earlier Gen. Zia met with President Zail Singh for 25 minutes during which he extended an invitation for him to visit Pakistan. Gen. Zia then had a working lunch with Mr. Gandhi before beginning two hours of direct discussions on nuclear competition in South Asia, Sikh terrorism and other issues dividing their nations.

The meeting is the sixth between the two leaders since Mr. Gandhi took office after the assassination of his mother and predecessor, Indira Gandhi. All previous meetings were held at international forums or funerals.

An Indian government spokesman said Monday there was no fixed agenda for the talks, which he described as aiming at "removing past misgivings and strengthening bilateral relations in various fields."

The main issue of contention is Pakistan's nuclear programme. Mr. Gandhi frequently charges that Pakistan is close to developing a nuclear bomb, but Islamabad says its atomic programme is for peaceful purposes only.

India exploded a nuclear device in 1974 and has the capability of building nuclear weapons.

The diplomats also said two unexplained explosions shook Kabul last week — one on Thursday near the airport and another on Friday in the capital's Shahre Nau area where a large column of smoke was seen rising.

The guerrillas sent up to eight rockets into the Soviet Khairkhan Military Base in Kabul after dusk on Dec. 10, the diplomats said. They had no details of any damage.

The diplomats said they had also received reports that about 40 Soviet soldiers were killed in five days of heavy fighting early this month around the southern town of Kalat, capital of Zabul province which borders Pakistan.

More than 50 guerrillas were reported killed or wounded in the battle, they said. The force of Soviet and Afghan troops engaged in the fighting later returned to Kandahar in the south west.

Kabul Radio said Monday night security forces had killed about 1,000 rebels in recent operations in Kandahar and Helmand provinces.

The diplomats said Kabul faced kerosene shortages, possibly because of guerrilla attacks on fuel convoys on the main highway between Kabul and the Soviet Border.

Ugandans sign peace agreement

NAIROBI (R) — Amid scenes of jubilation Uganda's military government and rebel leaders signed a peace accord Tuesday aimed at ending 20 years of bloodshed.

Choirs sang patriotic and religious songs before the signing by Ugandan head of state Gen. Tito Okello, National Resistance Army (NRA) leader Yoweri Museveni and Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi.

But many Ugandans doubted whether stability and real peace would return quickly to their strife-torn East African country, once known as the "Pearl of Africa."

Rebel leader Museveni said the bloodshed was the result of "state-inspired violence" and that he would not rest until those responsible were brought to justice.

He also pledged that his well-disciplined army, which controls much of south-western Uganda, "will be put at the disposal of anybody interested in peace in Uganda."

"I can assure you that our movement is a very serious partner. If you want peace, we are a serious partner. If you want trouble, we are also very serious partners," he told several hundred Kenyan and

Ugandan officials and diplomats at the ceremony.

Museveni, who said he had accepted the post of vice-chairman of the ruling military council, said the agreement stressed human rights which have been trampled upon by Uganda's rulers for many years. "The rulers are expendable. They come and go, but the people always stay," he said.

President Arap Moi stressed the agreement must be implemented fully to "reach the goal of national reconciliation that every Ugandan deserves."

The accord ended more than three months of bitter bargaining, angry mutual accusations and confusion.

Pressure to reach agreement mounted a week ago when Mr. Arap Moi issued a virtual ultimatum and was reported to be considering resigning as mediator.

Two decades of strife began shortly after the agriculturally-rich state on the northern shore of Lake Victoria gained independence from Britain in 1962 as a collection of autonomous tribal-based kingdoms.

The first coup came four years after independence when Milton Obote, a Socialist bent on making

Uganda a unitary state, overthrew the Kabaka, or king of Buganda, Sir Edward Mutesa, in the capital Kampala.

In turn Obote, who established a republic in 1967, was overthrown by the young army officer who had helped him to power, Idi Amin Dada, and Uganda's name became internationally synonymous with atrocities.

Amin expelled a thriving Asian community of 60,000, terrorised the expatriate European community and tortured and killed tens of thousands of innocent people.

Provoked by an invasion of Tanzania by Amin's men, then Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere sent troops and Ugandan exiles to chase Amin into exile in 1979. Obote returned from exile in Tanzania and was elected president in 1980.

As countless thousands of civilians out of a population of about 14 million were again tortured, killed or raped, former Defence Minister Museveni took to the bush for a drawn-out war which continued after the army ousted Obote for a second time and Gen. Okello became head of state. Obote moved to exile in Zambia.

Belgium arrests most wanted fugitive

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgian authorities believe they have made a major breakthrough against European urban guerrillas with the arrest of Belgium's most wanted fugitive, Pierre Carrette, and three associates.

Carrette, 33, is suspected of leading the Fighting Communist Cells (CCC), an extreme leftist Belgian group with proven links to France's Action Directe and West Germany's Red Army Faction.

The three men and a woman, all armed, were seized in a well prepared police swoop on a cafe in the southern town of Namur Monday afternoon. They did not resist.

A senior aide to Justice Minister Jean Gol called them the hard core of the CCC, which has claimed responsibility for 27 bomb attacks on NATO, U.S. and Belgian establishments targets in the last 14 months.

Police sources said Carrette lived in Brussels with the fugitive founders of Action Directe, Jean-Marc Rouillan and Nathalie Menigon, as recently as last summer.

The two groups used the same hideouts and shared explosives, stolen from a Belgian quarry last year, with the Red Army Faction, leading investigators to speak of a "Euroterrorist" network.

The arrests of Carrette, Didier Chevolet, 30, Bertrand Sassevo, 22, and Pascale Vandegheerde, 28, followed intensive surveillance by police and state security agents.

Carrette was also being sought for the attempted murder of a security guard, shot and wounded during a late October CCC car bomb attack on a Brussels bank.

The four were brought to Brussels amid unprecedented security measures in a 15-vehicle motorcade Monday night.

The CCC last struck on Dec. 6 blasting a NATO fuel pipeline in central Belgium and the headquarters of the allied agency which runs the pipeline network in Versailles, France.

Two firemen died in a May Day car bomb by the CCC at the headquarters of the Belgian Employers' Federation this year and Belgian insurance experts estimate the group's attacks in 1985 had done damage of up to a billion francs (\$20 million).

The group, believed to have financed itself with armed robberies, carried out a series of suitcase bombings on banks in broad daylight last month.

Extra guards were posted on government buildings Monday night as justice officials said they thought CCC sympathisers might seek revenge for the arrests with more bombings.

Polish police thwart demonstration

GDANSK, Poland (R) — Lech Walesa, leader of the outlawed Solidarity trade union, peacefully marked the 15th anniversary of bloody worker protests amid a heavy police presence designed to prevent demonstrations.

Riot police sealed off the area around this city's towering three-crosses memorial to workers killed by security forces in December, 1970, but allowed Mr. Walesa to place a wreath at its base.

Police in riot gear, backed by water cannon, were again deployed Monday after an anniversary mass when some 1,000 Solidarity supporters attempted to

stage a march.

The mass at Saint Brygida's Church, a major Solidarity stronghold, was celebrated by Gdansk Bishop Tadeusz Goculski who said in his sermon that the authorities replied with bullets when workers spoke up for their rights 15 years ago.

Ignoring the bishop's appeal to disperse peacefully, some worshippers jeered the police and chanted Solidarity slogans but scattered when a wall of shields began closing in.

Earlier, Mr. Walesa told Reuters in his home that the Communist authorities, which imposed martial law four years ago to des-

troy Solidarity, continued to pursue a policy of force and confrontation.

"Argument should be the force, not force the argument," Mr. Walesa, the 1983 Nobel Peace Prize winner, said.

Mr. Walesa has repeatedly called for renewed dialogue between the government and workers, but Poland's Communist rulers have ignored his appeals and regard the Solidarity period as a closed chapter in Polish history.

The bloody 1970 worker protests against food-price rises led to downfall of the late Communist leader Wladyslaw Gomulka.

65 Afghan soldiers reportedly die in blast

ISLAMABAD (R) — Up to 65 Afghan soldiers were killed and many more were wounded when a booby-trapped jeep exploded in Kabul last week, Western diplomats said in Islamabad.

They said the troops were preparing to be flown to the southern town of Kandahar when they were caught by the bomb planted in the jeep by rebels on Dec. 8.

Earlier, Afghan authorities said nine people were killed and 54 wounded in a bomb explosion near Kabul's Civil Aviation Authority building on the road to the capital's airport.

But the diplomats said the blast occurred close to military buildings a few hundred metres from the main airport terminal building.

They quoted their sources as reporting that 50 to 65 soldiers were killed and many more were wounded.

The jeep blast was one of at least four bombs set off in Kabul last week by Afghan guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed government, the diplomats said.

They said two to three women were killed by a bomb explosion at the Kabul polytechnic on Tuesday, three days after it was visited by President Bahrak Karmal.

Official Kabul Radio reported the explosion, saying 21 people were injured but not mentioning any deaths.

The diplomats also said two unexplained explosions shook Kabul last week — one on Thursday near the airport and another on Friday in the capital's Shahre Nau area where a large column of smoke was seen rising.

The guerrillas sent up to eight rockets into the Soviet Khairkhan Military Base in Kabul after dusk on Dec. 10, the diplomats said. They had no details of any damage.

The diplomats said they had also received reports that about 40 Soviet soldiers were killed in five days of heavy fighting early this month around the southern town of Kalat, capital of Zabul province which borders Pakistan.

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Malaysia to decide fate of 2 Australians

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Three judges are due to rule Wednesday whether two Australians will be the first Westerners to hang for trafficking under Malaysia's tough anti-drug laws.

Kevin Barlow, a Perth welder born in Stoke, England, and Sydney building contractor Brian Chambers, both 28, have appealed against mandatory death sentences imposed after they were convicted of trafficking in 180 grammes of heroin.

The judges sitting in the supreme court in Kuala Lumpur heard arguments Monday and Tuesday from the men's lawyers, who accused the trial judge of wrongly drawing damning inferences from circumstantial evidence.

The prosecution said the guilt of the two men had been well est-

ablished.

Proceedings were disrupted Tuesday morning when Karpal Singh, acting for Barlow, tried to have leading Australian criminal lawyer Frank Gallahy, who is assisting him, charged with contempt for remarks he said insulted Malaysia's legal system.

Mr. Gallahy apologised to the judges after admitting uttering words to the effect of those quoted by Mr. Karpal: "Blame it on your bloody system." Mr. Gallahy said the remark referred to the prison system, not the judicial system.

The dispute arose when Mr. Karpal rejected Mr. Gallahy's attempt to bring fresh grounds of appeal based on medical evidence. Barlow's arresting officer noted he shivered when first approached at west coast Penang Airport but Karpal said this was due to pain

from a hernia operation and not fear or guilt.

Barlow has to use crutches. Thin, with collar-length hair and a droopy moustache, he sat silent and still during the hearing. Police handcuffed him to his crutches when moving him.

Chambers sat near him. Both men, wearing shirt and tie, looked sombre. Chambers' parents and sister were nearby and several Australian legal experts and consular officials also attended the hearing.

The judges can quash the convictions, call for a retrial or dismiss the appeal. If it is thrown out, the two can seek mercy from the Penang Pardons Board which could order them to be hanged, free them or commute their sentences to jail terms.

Over 200 reportedly died in Indonesian riots

JAKARTA (R) — A leading Indonesian dissident on trial for subversion said Tuesday that more than 200 people were killed when troops opened fire on Muslim rioters last year, nearly seven times the official death toll.

Retired Gen. Hartono Dharsono also said President Suharto was a traitor for holding talks with Malaysia over 20 years ago when the two countries were at war.

Cheered by hundreds of supporters, he told the court: "Based on reports I received, at least 200 people were slain without the government even bothering to announce who had been killed or where they had been buried or who they were."

Armed Forces Commander

Benny Mardani told Reuters in an interview after the riot that about 30 people were killed in bloody clashes which flared in Jakarta's Jokers district after fiery anti-government sermons by extremist Islamic preachers.

Dharsono's estimate was the first to contradict the army's figures publicly, although Muslim sources have said the toll was much higher than the official count.

Dharsono, 60, an ex-army division commander and former secretary general of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), is charged with co-authoring a document contesting the military account of the riot.

The prosecution says the document, which called for an independent inquiry, was subversive. Dharsono said Tuesday Suharto was guilty of a far worse crime than subversion before he became president by talking with Malaysia when the two countries were at war.

"Irrespective of whether or not we supported confrontation (with Malaysia), my colleague Suharto had slipped quietly away to talk with the enemy ... this is worse than subversion ... he was a traitor to the nation and the people," he said.

This was punishable with death but Suharto had the support of the people at the time, Dharsono said.

U.S. mafia boss, bodyguard killed in New York street

NEW YORK (R) — Three killers shot the reputed "Godfather of the U.S. Mafia" outside a New York steak house Monday night and police fear the murder could spark a gang war.

They said the killing of Paul Castellano, 73, left the leadership of the Gambino crime family, largest and most powerful in America, "up for grabs."

"This could be the beginning of a mob war," said Tom Sheer, second-in-command of the New York office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

"There are a lot of young Turks in organised crime and they're tired of waiting. They want to do things now. What we have witnessed could be the changing of the guard," he said.

Castellano, known as "Big Paul," and his bodyguard and right-hand man, Thomas Bilotti, 47, were cut down in a hail of bullets on a midtown Manhattan street near the United Nations.

Three gunmen wearing trench coats and fedora hats pumped six shots apiece into Castellano and Bilotti as they got out of the mob

leader's limousine outside a popular restaurant on 46th Street near Second Avenue.

As dozens of passers-by screamed and ducked for cover in doorways, the killers walked down the street, got into a waiting car and vanished.

Castellano, a powerfully-built, stocky man with a hawk nose and craggy features, was on trial with nine other men on charges of operating an international car-theft ring.

He was also awaiting trial on charges of ordering the murders of 25 men, personally killing three of them, and was indicted with nine others in February on charges of operating a commission that ran organised crime in the United States.

Sheer said the leadership of the Gambino family was now "up for grabs" because its second-in-command, Aniello Della Croce, died of a heart attack on Dec. 2.

He said mobsters might also have decided it was a good time to kill Castellano because he was on

trial in the car case. Prosecutors say the ring stole millions of dollars worth of luxury cars from New York and shipped them to the Middle East.

"Everyone should be outraged at something like this," said U.S. Attorney Rudolph Giuliani, the prosecutor in the case. "A murder makes the whole world a little bit less safe for everybody — no matter who is murdered."

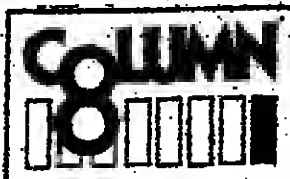
Police said Castellano met his lawyers in the afternoon and then drove to Sparks Steak House.

As Castellano and Bilotti were getting out of the car, the three men surrounded them, pulling 32-calibre and 38-calibre semi-automatic pistols from their trench coats.

One man walked up behind Castellano, another behind Bilotti and the third stood behind the car. The gunmen pumped six shots apiece into the two men, striking them in the head and face and killing them instantly.

Both men fell face up beside the open doors of the big, black Lincoln limousine.

There was a dark patch of blood



Burglars enter Soviet embassy

LONDON (R) — Police said Tuesday they were investigating a break-in at the information Department of the Soviet Union's London embassy. About 50 sterling (\$70) in cash was missing after the weekend incident and papers were scattered about the department, which publishes an embassy bulletin and the Soviet weekly newspaper, they said. Police said the intruders forced a door to gain entry to the office, located about 1.5 kilometres from the main embassy building. "We are treating it as a straightforward burglary," a police spokeswoman said.

Swedish airline bans smoking

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden's main domestic airline, Linjeflyg, has announced that it would become the world's first airline to ban all smoking on its flights. Company spokeswoman Asa Wikman said the ban, to take effect on Jan. 20, 1986, followed opinion polls among passengers which showed that even a majority of smokers favoured smoke-free aircraft on Linjeflyg's short internal flights. Wikman said a U.S. airline, Muse Air of Dallas, Texas, had experimented with a smoking ban but later lifted it. "We will be the first airline in the world to make our planes permanently smoke-free," she told Reuters. Linjeflyg carries 3.7 million passengers a year.

Soccer fans sentenced for racist attacks

DORTMUND, West Germany (R) — A court has pronounced suspended six-month prison sentences against four former members of a neo-Nazi football fan club found guilty of attacking Turks after a match. The four members of the Borussia Dortmund soccer club, were also fined 2,500 marks (\$1,000) each. They went on the rampage after a game in August 1983, attacking two Turkish men and threatening Turkish women and children. The main witnesses for the prosecution were two reporters for the Hamburg magazine Stern who witnessed the attacks. None of the victims had reported the incidents. The leader of the Borussia Dortmund, Siegfried Borchardt, known as "SS Siegi," was jailed for one year last June for attacking a Turkish Cultural Centre and a Turkish snack bar.

Al Capone's vault to be unsealed on TV

CHICAGO (R) — A sealed vault which may have been used by gangster Al Capone to store cash or even bodies will be opened on a live television programme on March 31. But government agents, who learned of the vault earlier this year, have filed legal claims on its contents for \$200,000 in back taxes still unpaid by the gangster's estate. The concrete vault in the basement of the crumbling Lexington Hotel where the Capone syndicate was based from 1928 to 1931 will be unsealed during a live TV programme, backers of the project have said. "There could be anything from bodies to money to booze," a spokesman for the producers said. The 10-storey hotel, south of Chicago's Centre City, also has secret passageways and doors which the Capone mob reportedly used when they occupied two floors there.

Motorist fined for stopping on motorway

LONDON (R) — Police who stopped to help a man kneeling beside his car at the side of the M1, one of Britain's main motorways, found there was nothing wrong with the vehicle. Londoner Mohammed Riaz told them: "I must pray five times a day so I stopped." A court in Wakefield, North-east England, fined Riaz £150 (\$220) for stopping on the no-parking road.

Ancient hoard found in Iran

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — A hoard of 3,576 gold and silver coins dating back to the early days of Islam in the 7th Century A.D. were discovered during road works in the small town of Izeh in Iran's southern Khuzestan province, the official Iranian News Agency, IRNA, reported Tuesday. The agency, monitored here, said the coins bore the names of the first four caliphs of Islam: Abu-Bakr, Omar, Uthman and Ali.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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DUPLICATE vs. RUBBER

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ AKQ1066
♥ A554
♦ 3
♣ 64

EAST
♠ 9
♥ J10762
♦ Q9872
♣ K10

WEST
♠ J742
♥ 3
♦ K6
♣ QJ9732

SOUTH
♠ 53
♥ KQ3
♦ AJ1054
♣ A85

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1-♣	Pass	1-♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	3-♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠.

comment: West Pass.

Naturally, South received a club lead against three no trump. East correctly overtook the queen with the king and returned the suit as declarer held nil winning the ace until the second round. What now?

At duplicate, you can see that declarer has a chance to make 12 tricks with favorable breaks in the major suits. Therefore, your best chance for a reasonable result is to try to run spades, and hope that your rivals can't nutscore you at a spade contract. However, the spades turn out to be 4-1 and, to make it worse, West has the long spade, so you can't set up the suit by conceding a trick to the safe hand—when West wins the spade he can take more than enough club tricks to defeat you. There for you.